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ISRAELYAN CONTRASTS USSR, U.S. STANDS AT GENEVA

TASS Correspondent

LD261959 Moscow TASS in English 1946 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Geneva March 26 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports: The course of discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament has borne out conclusively the pressing nature of the problem and the international community's interest in preserving space as a sphere of peaceful activities. Practically all delegations stressed the significance of the existing international agreements that limit the military uses of space and called for working out additional and effective measures to prevent the arms race from spreading to space. In this connection unanimous satisfaction was voiced with the start of Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms.

At the same time most conferees expressed grave concern about American plans to militarize space, in particular President Reagan's "strategic defense initiative". The delegation from Sri Lanka stressed anxiety over the striving to continue and accelerate space arms programs.

Voicing alarm about the fate of the 1972 treaty on the limitation of ABM defense systems, the Swedish representative urged a ban on the development, testing and deployment of all kinds of space weaponry.

Statements by many non-aligned countries expressed worry over the situation that is taking shape. The representatives of socialist countries exposed American plans for "star wars".

It can thus be said that the delegations of the United States and some of its closest allies found themselves in virtual isolation.

Summing up the course of the discussions on the issue, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Viktor Israelyan, said that contrary to claims by the American side, the absolute majority of the attending delegations are aware that, far from being conducive to stronger peace, stability and international security, the U.S. "strategic defense initiative" may dramatically destabilize the situation, fuel the arms race in all directions and completely disorganize the process of limiting the arms race.

After recalling the USSR's principled and consistent stand on the issue, the Soviet representative said that his country's efforts are invariably directed at preventing the militarization of outer space and making certain that it will serve only peaceful purposes. The Soviet Union's latest concrete proposals on this score are fully in line with these efforts. By contrast, the American approach is geared to ensuring the widest possible use of space for military purposes and the start of another round of the arms race, including the nuclear race, and no tricks can conceal the fact that the plans to militarize outer space and the "strategic defense initiative" substantially increase the risk of outbreak of a nuclear war.

Moscow Radio

LD261828 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The head of the Soviet delegation at the Geneva Conference on Disarmamant has said action of the American star wars program will cause a runaway arms race. Viktor Israelyan noted at the forum that this American program is aimed at creating possibilities for dealing a first nuclear strike and getting away with it.

AFP Report

AU261648 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Geneva, March 26 (AFP) -- The U.S.-Soviet negotiating group on space weapons, which was set up last Friday, held its first working session today at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. The U.S. side was led by Max Kampelman, chief U.S. negotiator to the new arms reductions talks, in a three-hour meeting.

Mr. Kampelman returned this morning from Washington where he backed President Reagan's efforts to convince Congress that money should be spent on the controversial MX missile. The U.S. Administration fears that defeat of the MX in Congress could undermine the U.S. position at the arms talks here.

The Soviet delegation was headed by Yuliy Kvitsinskiy, who previously led the Soviets in negotiations on intermediate nuclear forces. An agreement to disclose nothing was adhered to and observers were reduced to speculatingthat the talks were limited to each sides' theoretical position on space weapons, which do not yet exist and are not likely to be operational before the end of the century.

But Viktor Israelyan, Moscow's delegate to the separate U.N. Conference on Disarmament here, who is not part of the secrecy agreement, today proposed to the meeting that a treaty blocking any attempt to use space for military aims should be negotiated. Mr Israelyan accused the United States in a stinging attack of being "always at the origin of all arms races." It was the Americans, he said, who "without any military need, dropped the first two atomic bombs in history killing 273,000 at Hiroshima and 195,000 at Nagasaki."

Observers said this treaty proposal, if one day signed, would put an end to the U.S. "star wars" scheme known as the strategic defence initiative to protect the United States from incoming nuclear missiles.

Negotiations on space weapons, given Mr. Israelyan's speech here today, look set to be extremely difficult, observers said. The Soviet killing of U.S. Major Arthur Nicholson on a patrol in East Germany on Sunday was thought unlikely to improve the prospects.

Tomorrow the strategic arms group is due to meet and followed by the Euromissiles group on Thursday, in line with the decision to divide the U.S.-Soviet talks into three working groups according to weapon types.

GROUP ON SPACE WEAPONS HOLDS MEETING 26 MARCH

LD261638 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Geneva March 26 TASS -- A meeting of the group on space weapons was held here today at the Soviet-U.S. negotiations on nuclear and space arms.

IZVESTIYA'S MATVEYEV DISCUSSES ARMS TALKS

PM261300 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Vikentiy Matveyev "Political Observer's Opinion": "No Time To Lose"]

[Text] The new Soviet-U.S. talks that have started in Geneva are attracting close attention in the world. Of course, this is understandable. Will it be possible to embark on curtailing the arms race on earth and preventing an arms race in space? It is clear to people unversed in the subtleties of politics just what is at sake in the talks.

Does this mean that the efforts of constructive diplomacy can be restricted to the Geneva forum, that apart from this forum there are no other opportunities for action in the interests of improving the situation?

The struggle against the threat of war and in favor of real steps in the disarmament sphere is being waged on many sections of the long "peace front." The adventuristically inclined imperialist forces are not trying to get their own way merely on a local scale. "Globalism" -- that slogan of theirs betrays far-reaching schemes. When the Pentagon chiefs think that conditions are in their favor, they take immediate action.

A recent example is Belgium. Hardly had the country's government, under intense pressure from overseas, voted in favor of deployment before U.S. missiles immediately began being delivered to Belgium. This was despite the fact that, according to the bourgeois press itself, three out of four Belgians are against the deployment of U.S. missiles on the country's territory.

There was no delay. The speed of this "reaction," if one may call it that, contrasts with the voices overseas that think it possible to forecast years, if not decades of work for the Geneva talks!

The international public will hardly agree to tolerate a "snail's pace" with regard to something that cannot be postponed and is, without exaggeration, a question of life or annihilation. Every day of the continuing arms race means the accumulation of deadly new types of more and more sophisticated equipment and, consequently, materially more and more wasteful, creating the most terrible threat that mankind has ever encountered in its entire history.

The realization of this harsh truth undoubtedly explains the recent initiative by Democratic Senator Paul Simon and Republican Senator Mark Hatfield in the United States in submitting a draft resolution for Senate examination calling for the introduction of a joint Soviet-U.S. moratorium on the testing and deployment of new strategic weapons systems during the Geneva talks and a similar moratorium on the testing of any strategic nuclear warheads underground, at sea, in the atmosphere, or in space.

The resolution's authors are guided by sensible motives to promote the creation of a favorable atmosphere around the just begun Geneva talks between the USSR and the United States.

Their initiative reflects the growing concern not only of broad strata of ordinary Americans, but of many members of Congress, at the new programs for accelerating nuclear arms that are being strenuously pushed through by the Reagan administration. For instance, Senator A. Specter of Pennsylvania has recently received, in his words, thousands of letters and phone calls from people, 90 percent of whom are opposed to Congress' approval of appropriations for the MX missiles. On the other hand, the White House has recently mobilized all means of pressure to win approval for this spending.

The appearance of these new U.S. missiles will not ease, but complicate the atmosphere around the Geneva talks. Warnings about this are being issued by sober-minded politicians in the United States and other Western countries. There is no time to lose. The world public does not want to wait forever for the international horizon to clear.

Without belittling the importance of the problems on the talks' agenda, it should be recalled that there are questions relating to nuclear arms which, although not a subject of examination at Geneva, are nevertheless amenable to independent resolution, and in the very near future, too.

This was stated by the U.S. side during the January meeting between A.A. Gromyko and G. Shultz in Geneva. Questions such as the possibility of concluding an agreement on ending nuclear weapons tests, freezing nuclear arsenals, bringing into force the treaty signed several years ago between the USSR and the United States on peaceful nuclear explosions, and ensuring the adoption by the nuclear powers of a commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons were cited in this regard.

This is yet another broad arena for the actions of constructive diplomacy, an arena where the ground has already been well prepared for positive accords. Lip service is paid to this theme from official rostrums in the United States, but the situation needs positive action and more action!

That is the thinking of the broad strata of the world public, including the American public. There is much evidence of that. One can cite what was stated in a 20 March talk with A.Ye. Karpov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Fund, by the eminent U.S. public figures Admiral Eugene Carroll (retired), chairman of the Information Center for Defense Problems in Washington, and James Fierney, executive director of the U.S. Peace Fund. During the talk, the American guests spoke of the serious concern of the U.S. public at the situation currently prevailing in the world, above all, the further buildup of the arms race on a global scale. E. Carroll reported the initiative taken by the center he heads -- an appeal to the U.S. Government to announce a moratorium on all further U.S. nuclear weapons tests on 6 August this year, that is, the 40th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. According to him, this appeal has drawn wide public support.

Useful initiatives are being put forward by public groups and organizations in other countries dictated by the same desire: to promote the cause of universal peace through practical steps, not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, but right now.

A session of the WPC Presidium is currently under way in Moscow. Eminent public figures from many countries have converged on our capital. Welcoming the foreign public's envoys, Soviet people are expressing confidence in the possibility of progress along the road of lasting peace and real disarmament.

PRAVDA Comment

PM262049 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent B. Dubrovin dispatch: "Justifying Hopes"]

[Text] Geneva [no date given] -- Two weeks have elapsed since new talks on nuclear and space armaments began here between delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States.

One must immediately remark that the word "new" is not fortuitous in this context. The fact is, some people here -- politicians, diplomats and representatives of the mass media -- very stubbornly attempt in speeches, conversations, and articles to pass off the start of these completely new negotiations as a "resumption" of the old ones that were blocked at the end of 1983 by the Washington administration. This is by no means "forgetfulness" or "carelessness" in terminology, but a well thought-out propaganda action. One can easily trace the desire of certain Western circles to make every effort to belittle the importance of the negotiations now under way and to accustom people to the idea that there is allegedly nothing special in these talks and that one should hardly expect anything significant in the near future from the dialogue in Geneva.

Patently in accordance with a scenario worked out in advance, items that are more or less identical in tone have appeared in a number of bourgeois organs of the Western press in which the failure of the negotiations that have only just begun is predicted almost without any camouflage.

Of course, it is premature to talk just now about any concrete results. Very difficult and earnest work lies ahead which will naturally require not only time, but -- what is most important -- the will and desire of the sides to achieve positive results.

The talks are being conducted strictly on the basis of the accords that were agreed upon at the meeting of the USSR foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Geneva 7-8 January. As is known, at the time it was precisely and clearly defined that the subject of the negotiations would be "the range of questions concerning space and nuclear arms -- strategic and medium-range -- all these questions being examined and resolved in their interconnection." Both sides also jointly defined the aim of the Geneva dialogue: to draw up effective accords aimed at preventing the arms race in space and ending it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms, and at consolidating strategic stability. Ultimately, in the opinion of the sides, the Geneva talks, as well as efforts in general in the sphere of limiting and reducing arms, must lead to "the total liquidation of nuclear weapons everywhere."

The Soviet-American talks are taking place behind closed doors. As was agreed, the delegations are working in strict confidentiality. Apart from brief announcements of the fact that the latest meeting of the USSR and U.S. delegates has taken place, no details are being published about the nature and content of the discussions. Press conferences and briefings for journalists are not being held. However, the principled stance of the Soviet Union at these talks is no secret. As has been repeatedly firmly and authoritatively stated in Moscow, the Soviet Union is not seeking to achieve one-sided advantages over the United States and the NATO countries, nor is it seeking military superiority over them. The Soviet side wants the cessation and not the continuation of the arms race, and it therefore proposes a freeze on nuclear arsenals and the ending of further missile deployment. The USSR indeed wants a major reduction of stockpiled armaments, and not the creation of more and more new weapons systems, whether in space or on earth.

The course of the negotiations will show what stance the United States will adopt: a constructive one in line with the accords adopted, or an obstructionist one aimed at deceiving the public, at dragging out the talks, and at using them as a screen for implementing very dangerous plans for the militarization of space and for achieving military superiority over the USSR and its Warsaw Pact allies. However, even now, just 2 weeks after the start of the dialogue, a number of facts cannot fail to make observers wary.

Thus, having declared last Friday that the first stage of the plenary sessions had ended and that subsequent work would be transferred to the groups, a representative of the American delegation began, as the saying goes, "to cloud the issue." To the question: "In which groups will the discussions be continued?" he said that he "could not remember" how many there were in total and, still less did he know in what kind of groups the work would continue.

This statement was assessed in local journalistic circles as poorly disguised reluctance on the part of the Americans to earnestly and constructively discuss the problem of prohibiting the militarization of space. At the talks here, the United States would merely like, according to certain Western journalists accredited in Geneva, to "explain the significance" of the so-called "strategic defense initiative" of Washington or, to put it in simple terms, the aggressive "star wars" program. To "explain" but to try to avoid a businesslike and serious discussion of the question of space.

Of course it is too early to make forecasts about how the talks will go, but it is worth recalling that a firm accord exists. The talks will encompass three spheres: space, nuclear strategic armaments, and medium-range nuclear armaments.

Moreover, it has been agreed that the questions of nuclear and space armaments will be examined and resolved in their interconnection.

Attention has been drawn here to the speech by U.S. representative Donald Lowitz at the Disarmament Conference that is taking place in the Palais des Nations. Turning everything upside down, he asserted that "all states present in this hall" are allegedly "interested not just in the peaceful use of space, but also in its use for military purposes." Trumpeting the U.S. "strategic defense initiative" in every way, the speaker went so far as to say that it is allegedly of greater benefit to the world community to "agree to reorganize the foundations of strategic stability", that is, to proceed to disrupt the existing equilibrium on which international security is based. The opinion of many local observers is right in considering that the U.S. "star wars" program is a camouflaged attempt by the United States to achieve strategic superiority over the Soviet Union. This attempt, let us bluntly state, is doomed to failure because the Soviet Union will not allow anyone to ever achieve military superiority over it or to disrupt the existing military balance.

Possibly it would not be worth dwelling on this speech were it not for the "revelation" by Washington's representative that the preparation for the implementation of the "star wars" program will be continued and that the plans for the creation of an "antimissile shield" allegedly do not contravene the provisions of the unlimited 1972 Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems and that in this spirit the "United States will undoubtedly raise this question at the bilateral talks" here in Geneva. Evidently his speech was a propaganda action planned in advance, aimed not only at duping public opinion as regards the aggressive nature of the "star wars" program, but also at making the holding of the bilateral Soviet-American talks more difficult.

World public opinion cannot be duped by talk to the effect that "star wars" is only at the scientific development stage at the moment. People recall that the atom bomb was the fruit of scientific research in the framework of the Manhattan Project. It is known how this turned out for the inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then, the whole world and the Americans themselves have been living under the shadow of nuclear weapons. An awesome danger must not now be allowed to emanate from space.

One of the oldest Swiss clock firms, when advertising its products, asserts: "Time is more than just hours and minutes." One cannot help but agree with that. Time is indeed not just hours and minutes; it is also our future. It is important not to lose time, but to justify the hopes that the peoples of the world are pinning on the Geneva talks.

KAMPELMAN USED TO PRESSURE CONGRESS ON MX VOTE

PM261649 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: To Step Up Pressure"]

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar -- The White House has announced that M. Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments under way in Geneva, has been urgently called to Washington. It is clear from the report that he is to take part in bringing vigorous influence to bear on U.S. Congressmen to make them vote for appropriations for the production of a further 21 MX ICBM's.

The Senate has already decided to satisfy the administration's request for $1.5 billion in the 1985 fiscal budget for the construction of a new batch of MX missiles in addition to the 21 similar missiles already in production designed to deliver a first strike. People here are noting that the administration has succeeded in gaining support for its militarist program primarily with the aid of an unprecedented campaign to pressure Congress.

In the days preceding the Senate vote, R. Reagan brought intensive pressure to bear on the legislators to make them approve the Pentagon request. The President personally tried to persuade each senator that the continuation of the MX program is a matter of exceptional importance. All the leading figures of the administration, including Vice President G. Bush and Secretary of State G. Shultz, took part in indoctrinating the senators and congressmen. In the last days before the vote, they essentially did not leave Congress, trying to influence the legislators in the direction Reagan wants. After the Senate had expressed itself in favor of earmarking funds for the MX program by 55 votes to 45, the administration switched to indoctrinating the members of the House of Representatives, where a vote is now to take place.

At a routine (ocherednyaya) press conference, journalists asked the White House deputy press secretary the reasons for M. Kampelman's urgent departure for Washington. The reply was strange and came down to the claim that the MX program's passage through Congress and its approval would help to advance the Geneva talks.

The reference to the Geneva talks is being used here as blatant propaganda cover for the continuation of the escalation of the nuclear arms race -- that is the only way this statement can be assessed. It is noteworthy that the U.S. press frankly states that Kampelman in this case, like other members of the administration, is assigned the role of overt fixers for the program that essentially contradicts the aims and tasks of the Geneva talks.

Kampelman's call to Washington has perplexed congressional circles, which are emphasizing how grossly the U.S. Administration is exploiting the Geneva talks to push through appropriations for MX missiles and other military programs. House Speaker T. O'Neill has stated that the President has failed to put forward convincing justifications on the military or diplomatic plane for the expenditure on the MX missiles, which will total $41 billion. This missile has greater destructive power than all the explosive devices used during World War II taken together. The 200 MX missiles will add to the U.S. arsenal the destructive force of 200 World War II's, but all this might and all the accuracy of the MX missiles will not enhance U.S. security, because this might has an inherent flaw: It is as vulnerable as it is mortally destructive.

Touching on the argument of the administration and the supporters of the MX in Congress to the effect that the MX can be used as a "bargaining counter" in Geneva, T. O'Neill said: "If the MX missile cannot fulfill its military function, it has only a dubious chance of fulfilling its diplomatic mission. If this missile is vulnerable in the event of attack, it will be of dubious value as a 'bargaining counter.'"

U.S. LEADERS 'MISLEADING' PUBLIC ON SDI

LD261953 Moscow TASS in English 1913 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS - By TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev:

President Reagan's strategic defense initiatives, or to be more precise, the "star wars" program, will in the next few years come into conflict with the Soviet-U.S. 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM). This conclusion is made in a report published by the American public organization, Arms Control Association, which favors the ABM treaty. The erosion of that treaty, the authors of the report write, will lead to a large-scale race in arms, notably the development of anti-ballistic missile defense and simultaneous deployment of big numbers of newest offensive missiles. The report was prepared by experts from the Federation of American Scientists.

Efforts of the U.S. Administration to undermine and then blast altogether the Soviet-U.S. ABM treaty, the treaty of unlimited duration, are not fortuitous.

For this document is an obstacle blocking the way of those forces in the USA which today advocate militarization of outer space and strive for military superiority over the USSR.

Their interests are promoted by the program of preparations for "star wars" which provides for the development of a large-scale ABM system with space-based elements. But the 1972 ABM treaty prohibits that.

Top-ranking administration officials maintain that strike space weapons within the framework of the "star wars" program are defensive. However, experts engaged in the development of such weapons in the United States express opposite views. The "star wars" systems can attack as well, THE NEW YORK TIMES writes referring to the words of John Rather, a U.S. expert in lasers and one of the proponents of "star wars". In his appraisal, such a system can hurl an industrialized nation back to the level of the 18th century within half an hour.

Alleging that so far the case in point is only "research" into the possibility of developing a 100 per cent proof anti-ballistic missile defense, Washington leaders in actual fact are after misleading the people in a bid to conceal from them the fact that specific types of space weapons are being developed within the framework of that "research" program.

In keeping with plans of the strategic defense initiative, billions of dollars are to be spent on the development of the third generation of nuclear weapons, including X-ray lasers. These systems are regarded first of all as means for suppressing enemy defenses, not only as anti-satellite systems. U.S. experts hope to actuate an X-ray laser with a nuclear explosion in outer space. One may object: But what about the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies? They do not only outlaw nuclear explosions in space but regard as inadmissible to use outer space even for war propaganda. However, U.S. leaders in all probability intend to undermine these agreements as well. For, according to the 1967 treaty, activities in space should comply with international law, including the United Nations Charter and come in line with the interests of maintaining international peace and security, promoting international cooperation and understanding. If one compares the "star wars" program with the demands of the 1967 treaty it will become evident that the program is aiming precisely for undermining stability in the world and military uses of outer space. And this is a challenge to mankind, not to the Soviet Union alone.

U.S. MISSIONS SEEK TO SWAY EUROPEANS ON SDI

Shlenov Commentary

LD261809 Moscow International Service in Italian 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Viktor Shlenov commentary]

[Text] A mission from Washington is now in Western Europe comprising five high-ranking officials of the administration. REUTER has reported that the mission's objective is to dispel the growing skepticism among the peoples of Europe regarding President Reagan's strategic defense initiative (SDI). Our commentator Viktor Shlenov writes:

Washington is giving great advertising to the SDI project, which in effect is a program for militarizing space. The claim by the advocates for transforming space into a nuclear arsenal and a venue for possible star wars finds little support in the Old World. Even among the leaders in Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States' main allies in Europe, doubts are growing as to the utility of the U.S. space plan.

At the same time, the overwhelming majority of European public opinion is unanimous: Implementing the American plans destabilizes the situation in the world and torpedoes universal security.

The fact is that the side that does not yet have space weapons will have serious reasons for assuming that the other side intends to launch the first strike. These fears are even more well-founded in the light of the fact that along with preparations for the arms race in space, the U.S. Administration is continuing to acculumate new types of offensive strategic weapons, in particular, the new MX intercontinental missiles.

The implementation of the so-called space defense plan will increase the nuclear threat to the Soviet Union and its allies, who will find themselves compelled to suitably respond.

It is consequently difficult not to agree with Charles Hernu, the French defense minister, that implementing the American defensive system will lead to a further twist in the offensive weapons race.

The Americans are seeking to reduce the West Europeans to swallow a bait that [words indistinct]. During a recent visit to Western Europe, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger stated that the space umbrella could cover not only the United States, but also Europe. Here, however, is the opinion of the experts of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London: The American shield will be powerless against cruise missiles and weapons systems operating within the earth's atmosphere.

Consequently, it is not strange that the suspicion is spreading throughout Western Europe that by covering itself with its space shield, Washington intends to expose the countries of Western Europe to a retaliatory strike. Such is the cynical philosophy of the American space monsters.

Shishkovskiy Commentary

LD261219 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 25 Mar 85

[From the "World Today" program presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Text] The Reagan administration is insistently trying to involve its West European allies in implementing its dangerous plans to militarize space. That is the aim of the trip to Europe just begun by U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger. He will visit Luxembourg, where he will take part in a 2-day meeting of NATO defense ministers, and during a 3-day sojourn in Paris will have talks with France's President Mitterrand and Defense Minister Hernu.

The U.S. press points out that the head of the war department intends to seek support from his NATO partners for Reagan's strategic defense initiative [SDI], which envisages the creation of a large-scale antimissile defense system with space-based elements. In the opinion of observers, Weinberger intends to pay special attention to pressuring France in order to force a public statement from it at least agreeing with Reagan's star wars plans. UPI notes in this connection that of the allies of the United States, France has expressed the most serious reservations about the SDI.

At the same time as Weinberger's visit, a group of highly placed U.S. officials is also traveling to West European capitals. Having visited Denmark and Norway, they intend to sell the SDI in the FRG, the Netherlands, and Spain this week. REUTER notes that this trip is occasioned by the ever more skeptical attitude of West Europeans to the idea of Washington's star wars. Following France and Britain, doubts about the usefulness of such a program have been expressed for the first time by West German Chancellor Kohl.

As we can see, even among the United States' closest allies, understanding of the fact is growing that the course taken by Washington may not just scotch the Soviet-American dialogue that has begun in Geneva, but also entail a new arms race that could spread into space.

PRAVDA International Review

LD241635 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2358 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, 24 Mar (TASS) -- Meeting with opposition to plans to militarize space, writes PRAVDA today, Washington is undertaking serious efforts to neutralize it. The newspaper notes in the international review: A broad program of pressure on West European countries has been worked out and is under way to draw the NATO states' military-industrial complex into direct participation in the development of the "star wars" project. Moreover, a dollar enticement is being put in the forefront in the form of high profits from fulfilling American orders, which is extremely tempting for many West European companies.

PRAVDA points out: Some people are swallowing the bait from across the ocean, but far from everybody. As Richard Perle, U.S. assistant defense secretary, blurted out in one of the Senate committees, "NATO countries are perturbed" that the technology proposed for the "star wars" project will "be earmarked only for the defense of the United States."

Along with advertising "temptations" of the program to militarize space, Washington is continuing its tactic of "arm twisting" and crude pressure on the issue of the further deployment of new American nuclear weapons on the territories of a number of West European countries.

PRAVDA recalls: In the last few days the Belgian Government has not stood its ground under the weight of this pressure. With its consent, the first 16 cruise missiles with nuclear charges were hastily delivered to the military base in Florennes. Incidentally, the Reagan administration, not the Belgian parliament, was the first to learn about this decision of the Martens government. This gave grounds for a member of parliament, Socialist A. van der Bist to state: "On the question of missiles, Belgium showed itself not as a U.S. ally in NATO, but as its vassal, without any signs of independence."

The newspaper writes: Peace-loving Belgium has responded with angry protests to the actions of its rulers and their patrons across the ocean. The antiwar demonstrations that took place throughout that country last week have joined the mighty flow, which is gathering force everywhere, of mass demonstrations by fighters for preserving peace. Demands to remove first-strike missiles that threaten catastrophe from European soil, the shelve the plans across the ocean for the militarization of space, to at last display a constructive, sensible approach to the talks in Geneva, to which Washington as yet can in no way resolve itself, are to be heard with ever greater urgency and volume, and are acquiring a truly universal nature.

'INTERNATIONAL REVIEW' HITS SPACE MILITARIZATION

PM261052 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[Boris Kotov "International Review"]

[Text] Priority Direction

The Soviet Union will firmly and consistently continue to pursue a course of peace and progress and follow the Leninist principles of peace and peaceful coexistence. This was declared at the latest session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. It was noted that great significance in this respect was attached to the 13 March friendly meeting in Moscow between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the party and state leaders of the Warsaw Pact member-states. The exchange of opinions during that meeting, which confirmed the united approach toward the topical questions under discussion, will help the further improvement of all-around ties between the fraternal countries and their close cooperation in the political, economic, ideological, defense, and other spheres.

The Politburo fully approved the results of the friendly meeting and conversations with delegation leaders from other socialist countries and reaffirmed the will of the CPSU and the Soviet state expressed at those meetings to continue to preserve and strengthen in every way the fraternal friendship with our allies and to give the socialist countries priority in foreign policy affairs.

Last week's events provide further evidence of this. This is the light in which one can examine the 20 March conversation between Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and Raul Castro, member of the Politburo and second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, the outcome of the Soviet-Bulgarian and Soviet-Romanian talks held last week in Moscow, and the results of the GDR foreign minister's friendly visit to the USSR.

These meetings and talks were a good demonstration of the fraternal countries' determination to multiply their efforts aimed at ending the arms race imposed by imperialist circles, preventing nuclear war, and strengthening peace and international security. If we turn to other spheres of cooperation, it was no accident that emphasis was placed on the great significance of last June's Moscow economic summit of the CEMA member-countries. It will be recalled that this conference made decisions aimed at making fuller and more efficient use of the potential of the international socialist division of labor and at deepening socialist economic integration. The consistent implementation of these decisions provides an important new boost to the further development of the fraternal countries' economy and their cooperation and to the growth of socialism's prestige and attractiveness in the world.

Many other of the events of which the full-blooded life of the socialist community states contains such a wealth lie within this same channel.

A joint plenum of the MSZMP Central Committee and the MSZMP Central Control Committee was held in Budapest last week, on the eve of the 13th MSZMP Congress, which opens 25 March. It was declared that the MSZMP and the Hungarian Government will channel their efforts toward further strengthening the unbreakable friendship of the CPSU and the MSZMP and the Soviet and Hungarian peoples and toward developing the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

A conference of first secretaries of CPCZ kray and city committees in Prague discussed questions of the fulfillment of the 16th CPCZ Congress decisions, measures concerning the successful implementation of tasks in the current, final year of the 5-year plan, and preparations for the 17th Party Congress. The participants in the conference noted that the preparations for the scheduled party congress will proceed amid the sign of an increase in the activeness of Czechoslovak working people in all spheres of life and in the CSSR's unity and cohesion with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries.

Festivities took place in Poland to mark the 40th anniversary of the battles for the liberation of Poland's northern territories from the fascist invaders. Tribute was paid to the Soviet and Polish servicemen who fought heroically shoulder to shoulder for Poland's freedom and independence. Polish leadership representatives declared during the festivities that the Polish people will continue to strengthen friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union -- the reliable guarantor of the inviolability of Poland's state borders and its security and independence -- and with the other socialist countries, and will make their contribution to strengthening the community's defense capability.

To preserve and comprehensively strengthen the fraternal friendship with the closest comrades-in-arms and allies -- this is the first commandment and priority direction in the policy of all the states of the great socialist community. The community has the necessary potential to further strengthen socialism's positions in the world arena and step up the actions aimed at preventing a nuclear war. An important role in this cause will continue to be played by the Warsaw Pact Organization -- a reliable instrument for ensuring peace.

When Will Realism Prevail?

People all over the world are pinning great hopes on the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons which have just started in Geneva. In the Soviet leadership's opinion, expressed during M.S. Gorbachev's 22 March meeting with the Socialist International's consultative council on disarmament, progress at these talks and their fruitfulness depend primarily on whether both sides adhere rigorously to all parts of the accord reached regarding the subject and objectives of the talks. For its own part, the Soviet Union will do everything within its power to implement the agreement in question. The USSR will judge the U.S. side's intentions by its practical actions. It is necessary for each side to display goodwill and the readiness for reasonable compromises and -- most importantly -- for the principles of equality and identical security to be strictly observed.

To all appearances, however, official Washington is still very far from a realistic approach toward the problems under discussion in Geneva. Leading U.S. Administration figures remain captive to dangerous illusions, believing that an unrestrained buildup of military preparations, the further unleashing of more and more new rounds of the arms race, and its transfer to space constitute "the key," as one transatlantic newspaper put it, which will supposedly make it possible to open the road to success in Geneva and force "the Russians to back down." However, it has long been well known that any attempts to talk with the Soviet Union "from a position of strength" are a futile venture.

Unfortunately, however, the thinking in Washington departments still continues to operate on this plane. With a sophisticated persistence worthy of some better application, the U.S. Administration is now seeking to get the U.S. Congress to approve the $1.5 billion of appropriations requested for the production of the next batch of MX ground-launched heavy nuclear ICBM's, which, as eminent U.S. specialists admit, are first-strike offensive weapons.

Unprecedented pressure was exerted on hesitant legislators by the president and his immediate entourage before the vote in the Senate, which approved these appropriations by a small majority.

The President personally went to the Congress building at the crucial moment to give the senators his "last-minute instructions" a few hours before the vote. The main argument which was put forward here boiled down to the claim that a refusal to approve the MX missile production program would virtually doom the Geneva talks to failure. In the President's words, this would be "an incorrect signal to Moscow at an inappropriate time." On the other hand, a vote in support of the MX missiles would "demonstrate to the Soviet Union America's unity and its resolve to struggle for the cause of peace."

A logic that is equally distorted and remote from present-day realities can be perceived in the feverish activity currently launched by the administration around the program for the militarization of space. Paramount attention is now being devoted to the task of involving by every means the United States' NATO allies in the "star wars" project, which is dangerous for the cause of world peace. It is obvious that by no means the least reason behind this is the desire to lend to the project a certain "Atlantic respectability" and to attempt to pacify influential political "fault-finders" both at home in the United States and in Western Europe, in the allied countries.

The U.S. President's visit to Canada was a noteworthy step in this campaign. A number of documents involving Canada still more deeply in Washington's military preparations were signed there, and agreement was obtained from Ottawa's Conservative government to support the "star wars" project. Furthermore, the U.S. President made sharp attacks on the USSR in his speeches during the visit, which, as Britain's THE GUARDIAN suggests, by no means without reason, can only "cloud the atmosphere at the Geneva talks."

Nevertheless, criticism of Washington's militarist aims has not only not subsided, but is actually becoming increasingly vocal with every passing day.

In a review article devoted to the Geneva talks, London's THE OBSERVER concluded last Sunday that "enthusiasm for President Reagan's strategic defense initiative has diminished" in West Europe. In other words, any illusions that some people there may have nurtured regarding the beneficial nature of the venture to create the pseudo-defensive American "space shield" are beginning to dissipate like smoke.

In recent remarks by British Foreign Secretary G. Howe, who declared in particular that the "star wars" concept could lead to an acute destabilization of the international situation, have prompted a great reaction. In an interview with the American weekly TIME, French Premier L. Fabius expressed his belief that the implementation of the so-called "strategic defense initiative" will lead to the opening up of new spheres for the arms race, as a result of which the approximate balance of forces prevailing in the world will be disrupted.

A certain confusion on the "star wars" question has emerged even in such an "orthodox" NATO capital as Bonn. Is this not indicated by an eloquent report carried by the newspaper DIE WELT 20 March: "The FRG Foreign Ministry yesterday sent instructions to its official missions abroad to explain in their host countries that complete unity of views exists between Chancellor H. Kohl and Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher on the question of Reagan's strategic defense initiative"? Obviously, there are grounds to doubt this.

Both Carrot and Stick

Encountering opposition to its plans for the militarization of space, Washington is making serious efforts to neutralize it. It has elaborated and has started to implement a broad program to pressure West European countries and involve the military-industrial complex in NATO states in direct participation in the development of the "star wars" project. What is highlighted in this is the dollar bait in the shape of the large profits to be made from fulfilling American orders, which is highly tempting for many West European companies.

General James Abrahamson, program leader, and George Keyworth, science adviser to the President, have taken to visiting West Europe. Unpublicized meetings are held with leaders of West European conservative mass news organs with the aim of providing propaganda support for the plans to develop space weapons. The NATO allies are threatened with a "technological lag" if they decline to participate in the implementation of these plans and are tempted with the mind-boggling figures of the appropriations planned for this purpose.

The French newspaper LA TRIBUNE DE L'ECONOMIE has joined this propaganda chorus: "The United States is to spend 30 billion dollars just on research in the sphere of laser technology and on the creation of beam weapons, and the development of electronic control systems will cost an additional 50 billion dollars." According to a report by a REUTER correspondent, a group of officials in Bonn representing three ministries has prepared a special report on the question of attitudes toward the project. The report's authors urge that "immediate political considerations be set aside and that West German participation in scientific research within the framework of the strategic defense initiative be ensured in the very near future."

As we can see, some people are swallowing the transatlantic bait. But by no means everyone is. Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, blurted out before a Senate committee that "the NATO countries are worried" that the technology that it is planned to develop within the framework of the "star wars" project will be "meant only for the defense of the United States."

Along with advertising the "temptations" of the program for space militarization, Washington is maintaining its tactics of "strongarming" and crude pressure on the question of the further deployment of new U.S. nuclear means on the territory of several West European countries. Belgium's Government failed to withstand the weight of this pressure in the last few days. With its agreement the first 16 nuclear-tipped cruise missiles were hastily delivered to the Florennes military base. In fact, it was the Reagan administration instead of the Belgian parliament that was the first to learn of this decision by the Martens government. This gave socialist member of parliament A. van der Bist grounds to declare: "On the missiles question Belgium acted not as a NATO ally of the United States, but as its vassal without any sign of independence."

Peace-loving Belgium responded with an angry protest to the actions of its rulers and their transatlantic patrons. The antiwar demonstrations that swept the country last week merged into the mighty wave of mass demonstrations by fighters for the preservation of peace, which are gathering strength everywhere. The demands that U.S. first-strike missiles that threaten a catastrophe be removed from European soil, that the transatlantic plans for the militarization of space be canceled, and that a constructive and reasonable approach to the Geneva talks be displayed at long last -- which is something that Washington still cannot make up its mind to do -- are being voiced increasingly urgently and loudly and are becoming truly worldwide.

PRAVDA REPORTS SPEECH OF WPC PRESIDENT CHANDRA

PM261425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 85 First Edition p 4

[I. Melnikov report: "For Peace and Life! -- Opening of WPC Presidium Session"]

[Text] Across the planet a great and insuperable struggle for peace is under way, which does not pause for a day or an hour. Millions of people, irrespective of their social, political, or religious affiliation, are taking part in it. The universal nature of the antiwar and antinuclear movement is now determined by the fact that mankind has set itself the task of surviving and preventing the death of its civilization.

The plans of aggressive imperialist circles, which are threatening to bring mankind to the fatal brink of thermonuclear war, are being foiled, thanks largely to the efforts of the peace champions. The truth is penetrating peoples' consciousness that the U.S. nuclear missile palisade and U.S. plans to transfer the arms race to space are not a means of defense against the mythical "Soviet threat" at all, but a very real component of Pentagon strategy, based on the idea of inflicting a first strike.

Mankind has not lost and cannot lose its reason, and so today detachments of peace-loving forces are on the march on a big scale on different continents, and in various countries, cities, and villages. Their emissaries have been received in Moscow, where a session of the WPC Presidium opened yesterday.

Around 400 representatives of various political parties, trade unions, mass antiwar and liberation movements, solidarity movements, workers', women's, and youth public organizations, and religious circles from 86 countries and representatives of many international organizations have gathered to discuss topical tasks for joining actions aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war. These people, different in their political, ideological, and religious views, are united in their profoundest conviction -- that joint and vigorous actions are essential against the nuclear threat and against the transfer of the arms race to space. We cannot wait and we cannot keep silent! The peace champions must augment their efforts, bring millions of people onto the city streets, and influence the course of the talks in Geneva.

Yet another thought and sentiment, brought by these people from throughout the world to Moscow, is the sacred memory of what an unusually high price peace cost the peoples of Europe and the world 40 years ago. It is the grateful memory that the key contribution to the victory over the forces of fascism and militarism was made by the Soviet Union, its Army, and its people. There is no doubt that the experience gained by the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition over 4 decades ago can stand the peoples in good stead today too and help unify forces against the instigators of a new world war.

It was with these emotional thoughts that the delegates of the WPC Presidium session took their places in the "Sovintsentr" conference hall on the banks of the Moscow River. The forum was opened by WPC President Romesh Chandra. He gave the floor to B. N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, who read out a USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium greeting addressed to the session. The greeting was met with prolonged applause.

One after the other the peace champions, whose names are well known and whose opinions are heeded attentively, took the floor to speak.

"We are privileged to meet," R. Chandra said in his speech, "in the capital of the Soviet Union -- a country whose people delivered the decisive blow against the barbarous Nazi hordes and against their plans for world domination. We pay tribute to the memory of those who died combating fascism -- the soldiers of the armed forces of the anti-Hitler coalition, the resistance fighters, and the victims who died in the gas ovens [pechi] and concentration camps.

Even on the eve of the war, the speaker continued, most peoples in Europe and throughout the world realized what danger fascism posed for mankind. However, the antiwar forces did not succeed in cooling the aggressive ardor of Nazi Germany's rulers or in preventing World War II. The main reason for this was the split among those who understood the danger of fascism. The then leaders of the major Western powers, blinded by hatred of the Soviet Jnion, rejected any initiative aimed at creating a united front against war and fascism.

If the antifascist and antiwar forces had managed to unite in time, it might have been possible to avert World War II and 50 million people would not have perished. This is the main lesson for the peace-loving forces of our day. Even today not all antiwar forces are yet united around clear goals and tasks. Meanwhile the warmongers and those who are getting rich on arms production are doing everything in their power to sow dissension and confusion in the camp of those fighting to avert nuclear war.

The WPC calls for the unification of all peace-loving forces. By uniting we will be strong enough to save the planet from destruction. We will can and must make use of this force. This unity also presupposes united action on the part of governments and nongovernment organizations which advocate peace.

The speaker dwelt on questions of cooperation between the WPC and the United Nations and its specialized institutions, noting that no other nongovernment organization carries out such broad activity in support of the decisions of the international community.

R. Chandra drew attention to the fact that peace-loving forces recognized the serious nature of the international situation since the start of deployment of new U.S. nuclear means in a number of West European countries against the peoples' will. In addition to deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles on European soil, he said, the U.S. Administration has begun to implement a perfidious new plan -- to transfer the arms race to space. An immediate end to the implementation by Washington of its plans to prepare "star wars" is the key question for all who are waging the struggle for peace, national independence, justice, and economic and social progress on all continents.

The world public welcomes the beginning of the new Soviet-American talks in Geneva. However, the first days have already shown that the United States is striving to change the agreed agenda of the talks and play down the significance of the urgency of talks on space weapons. Governments and nongovernment organizations which advocate peace must act without delay to force the Reagan administration to hold serious talks in Geneva on all questions on the agenda, which are inextricably linked with the aim of completely liquidating all types of nuclear weapons.

R. Chandra resolutely condemned the U.S. "undeclared war" against independent Nicaragua and Washington's support for Israel's criminal acts against Lebanon and the Palestinian people and for the terror and repression of the racist Pretoria regime against the people of South Africa and Namibia. Speaking of the situation in those regions where there is tension, he said that peace supporters are making proposals for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

The WPC calls for support for the Central America peace initiatives put forward by the Contadora Group and Nicaragua; the proposals to establish zones of peace and cooperation in regions such as Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and the Mediterranean; and the initiatives on creating nuclear-free zones in the countries of northern Europe, the Balkans, and other regions.

To applause from the auditorium, R. Chandra ended his speech with the words:

"I think I am expressing our common and united will when I say that we will not pause until the danger of nuclear war is eliminated, until an arms race in space is averted, until the arms race on earth is halted, and finally until nuclear weapons throughout the world are destroyed and banned forever."

With great interest the delgates listened to the speech by Tomas Travnicek, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak National Front Central Committee, whse speech vividly reminded everybody of the remarkable forum held less than 3 years ago in Prague -- the World Assembly of Peace Forces, and the speech by Marshal Francisco da Costa Gomes, former president of Portugal, who 10 years ago signed the Final Act of the All-European Conference in Helsinki on behalf of his country.

The speech by James Lamond, well-known British politican and Labor member of Parliament, struck a vivid note. However much the reationary press exerts itself in accusing me of "propaganda in favor of the USSR, he said, I have quite simply uttered and will continue to utter a sacred truth -- that the Soviet Union depends world peace with consistency and principle. Throughout the 40 years since the war it has advocated mutual understanding among peoples and has been seeking to end the arms race which, apart from anything else, is the fruit of the mediocre greed of the arms manufacturers, who are getting rich at the peoples' expense.

Soviet Academician Ye.P. Velikhov devoted his speech to the role of scientists in exposing the reckless nuclear arms race being pursued by Washington and the hyprocritical talk by U.S. Administration representatives of the "peace-loving" purpose of space weapons.

(Olga Aviles Lopes), chairman of the Nicaraguan Peace Defense Committee, spoke passionately from the platform of her people's just struggle for freedom and their desire for the triumph of the ideals of peace in Central America.

In the afternoon there was a plenary sitting of the session on the theme: "Averting an arms race in space." Addressing it, Soviet Peace Defense Committee Chairman Yu.A. Zhukov cited irrefutable facts, which have even been carried in the U.S. press, confirming that space weapons are essential to the U.S. generals as a means of securing impunity from a preemptive strike against any country whose political systems does not suit Washington.

Session participants from Bulgaria, the United States, Poland, Lebanon, Japan, Afghanistan and other countries also addressed the sitting. The session is continuing its work.

REPRINT OF KOLESNICHENKO ON GENEVA, SDI/PAGE TWO

And how about the United States? Does the U.S. side intend to honor all points of the agreement between the USSR and the United States on the issue of the subject and objective of the talks, elaborated during the 7-8 January meeting in Geneva? This question is by no means rhetorical. U.S. news agencies report that the delegations in Geneva have agreed on strict confidentiality in their work. It is, nevertheless, in the U.S. press that news reports are being "leaked," and these reports cannot but put the international public on guard. Actually, these reports are not news, but rather echoes of public statements made by official spokesmen of the U.S. Administration on the eve of the Geneva talks and, to all appearances, they reflect the U.S. stance on these talks. This, incidentally, was actually confirmed by U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz, who declared a few days ago that the United States has no intention of giving up its "star wars" program during the Geneva talks, but is only prepared to...conduct a "more extensive dialogue" on this question. Such declarations can hardly help create a propitious atmosphere at the talks. After all, all these deliberations are nothing but an attempt to justify the U.S. plans to militarize space which, if implemented, would inevitably lead to a new acceleration of the arms race, a dangerous disturbance of strategic stability, and an increased threat of nuclear war.

Under pressure from critics both inside the United States and far beyond its borders, the "star wars" program is being correspondingly modified and given a propaganda gloss in an attempt to present it as increasingly innocuous and attractive. Stress has recently been laid on the so-called "research" aspect of the problem. After all, people in Washington claim, what is so reprehensible about scientists conducting scientific research to develop an ABM "shield?" So far, not a single word has been said about deploying space weapons. So far -- precisely! "Research" work in the sphere of the militarization of space is only the first real step along the path of developing new and previously unknown types of weapons, a most important element in the process of the development of a large-scale ABM system by the Pentagon. This system has been planned as a means of attaining military superiority and of advancing of Washington to global first-strike positions. This was confirmed a few days ago before a Senate committee by General Abrahamson, leader of the organization charged with implementing the "strategic defense initiative."

Attempting to push through a further increase in appropriations for Reagan's "star wars," the general claimed that "the emphasis of the program is on the development of non-nuclear defense weapons." Actually it is a desire to deliver a first nuclear strike with impunity, from beneath a space "shield." It is completely clear that the development of an ABM system with space-based elements would cancel out the Soviet-U.S. termless Treaty on the Limitation of ABM systems. Abrahamson himself was forced to admit this. Answering a question by Senator J. Glenn as to whether the deployment of such a system would be in violation of the treaty, the general declared with a soldier's frankness: "I think the answer would be an unqualified yes."

A closer investigation shows that the "scientific" research, which appears "innocuous" at first glance, is fraught with tragic consequences. This is especially so if American society's mentality is taken into account. By investing billions in such "research" today, present-day militarists in the United States want as it were to pass on their work to the next generation, to consolidate the arms race course well into the 21st century, and to obtain some kind of guarantee that the hands of future U.S. leaders will be tied and unable to retreat from the present militarist course.

Even M. Kampelman, leader of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks, makes no secret of the fact that "research" is not too far removed from actual weapons. A recently published article, co-authored by him with the well-known Z. Brzezinski and Professor of Physics R. Jastrow, contains a specific appeal for the deployment of ABM weapons in space as early as the early nineties.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES ON MX FUNDING

Falin Views Pressure on Congress

PM261049 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition pp 4-5

[Valentin Falin article under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion": "From the Imperial Standpoint"]

[Text] It is a good thing that over the years the international public has developed a certain immunity toward the attacks of militarism which periodically afflict Washington. Otherwise, in these March days it would certainly seem that the American leaders are expecting the end of the world any day now, and are therefore feverishly laying in all kinds of ammunition in quantitities capable of surpassing all the known pyramids and burial mounds.

On closer examination, it becomes clear that in reality nothing extraordinary has happened outside the United States, unless you count the new Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms which have begun in Geneva. Moreover, you can learn from the words of the top representatives of the administration itself that the United States has reason to feel itself more secure than ever before in the last 25 years or so.

Where is the logic? Security is at a highpoint, yet R. Reagan's government seeks an increase in military appropriations and demands more and more new weapons, more and more sophisticated military technologies. Of course, from the viewpoint of common sense, there is no logic. There is not and cannot be a reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence between states. Let us stress no reasonable alternative, but, unfortunately, the unreasonable alternatives are legion. They have their own logic, a logic alien to common sense.

Breaking the backbone of the arms race means cutting the ground from under militarism. If there are fewer weapons in the world, there will be less hostility. It will be necessary, willy-nilly, to seek the resolution of interstate problems on the basis of cooperation, true equality, and respect for the legitimate interests of all members of the international community. You cannot achieve everything all at once, so, to begin with, stop the further buildup of military arsenals and do not take military rivalry into a sphere where it does not yet exist. Logical? From the viewpoint of strengthening security for all states and on all continents, it is logical. But from the imperial standpoint, from where the U.S. rulers look down on their surroundings, it does not stand up to criticism.

"Security and peace," R. Reagan stated at a recent meeting with businessmen, "cannot be obtained free. They are very precious things, and like everything of great value, it is necessary to pay a certain price for them..." In this specific instance, the President was talking a language which his audience understood: money and trade. If you want to go on exploiting your own people and others, you'll have to look sharp. Big business will be supplied for years to come with government orders with guaranteed profits. P. Nitze, the adminstration's special adivser on arms control questions, has no hesitation in promising "decades" of a very high pace of "modernization" of American strategic doctrines and, naturally, of the entire war machine. He knows what he is talking about.

True, there are some problems. It is in no way possible to reconcile demands with potential. In 1984 the state debt increased by a further sum of nearly $200 billion, and the foreign trade deficit doubled, amounting to $101 billion. You will soon go bankrupt that way.

It will be necessary, R. Reagan warned, to cut "domestic spending," by which he means, first and foremost, appropriation for social security, education, and medicine. He admitted that this will be "politically a most difficult act." Too true. Whichever way you look at it, however you juggle with the statistics -- for instance, for the military items the administration shows "real growth" (corrected to allow for inflation), while for social spending it gives the "absolute level" at current prices -- as a result of the Republicans' 4-year campaign against the deprived strata of the population, the sick, and the old, the army of superfluous people in the United States has grown to record levels. Someone with an empty belly takes a different view of the "national interest" from someone with a full belly, and the nuclear umbrella has yet to provide anyone with a substitute for a roof over their head.

Naturally, American senators and congressmen do not have the concerns which torment the unemployed and those who eat at soup kitchens, but they too have begun to doubt whether it is right, in struggling against the dangers created by a sick imagination, to bring down real threats on the country. Would it not be better to concern yourself with domestic affairs, which there are plenty of, and to use the chance offered by the Geneva talks not for idle talk, but to elaborate mutually acceptable settlements. An antiwar movement is worse than any armed rebellion. It must be suppressed without delay. So all the President's men, headed by R. Reagan, went into the attack on the Capitol. The first deafening salvo was against the senators. It was fired by the MX first-strike missiles, and 55 out of 100 senators decided to satisfy the administration's demands.

The White House rubs its hands in satisfaction. It is almost sure that the House of Representatives will not withstand the onslaught either, that the majority will not want to be labeled "traitors to national security." It, like the Senate, is being besieged with "arguments": the refusal to allocate $1.5 billion for the production of another 21 MX missiles would weaken national defense; render useless all the billions of dollars of earlier expenditure; undermine the positions of America's allies who have agreed to receive the new Pershing and cruise missiles on their territory; and undermine the positions of the American representatives at the Geneva talks by showing the Russians that the majority of members of the U.S. Congress still lack resolve.

I have repeated the President's arguments word for word. They were reproduced in the same form by Vice President G. Bush. In order to bring pressure to bear on the members of Congress, M. Kampelman and J. Tower, who head the American delegation to Geneva, were called in. The impression is that they have recently been concerned mainly with their customary work of pushing through military programs.

"For the sake of peace throughout the world," as R. Reagan claimed. In fact, this phrase is all that remains of Reagan's peace-loving fireworks which were so widely advertised with an eye to the elections last year.

Thus the Congress vote on MX missiles was a kind of touchstone for the whole U.S. military policy, a test of the potential for "taking to their conclusion," as R. Reagan noted at a 19 March meeting with a group of Republican senators, "the carefully elaborated plans for strengthening national defense." It was enough, the President stated, that "in the last 4 years defense spending was cut by more than $150 billion." Hardly had the stunned listeners had time to rub their eyes, when the speaker explained -- cut relatively, compared with "the level laid down in the 5-year plan in 1981" by him, R. Reagan.

At a time when Soviet-American talks are under way, nobody in Washington has the right to state that the United States has no choice, that an evil fate is forcing it to think in terms of confrontation. No, the Americans seek complications wherever they can, and where, for all their efforts, they cannot find them, they create them.

Former U.S. Secretary of State A. Haig last week published a curious acticle in THE WASHINGTON POST in which, among other things, he says: "We set new restrictions on the use of force by the Soviet Union and extended the horizons of security for free peoples and peoples fighting for freedom." Let us pin down these concepts of "freedom" and so forth, let us look at the crux of the matter. A. Haig is in retirement. He does not have to choose diplomatic phrases. He can be frank. The United States has decided to curtail the positions and interests of the USSR and its friends. Washington is ripe for an expansion of its "Lebensraum," its spheres of influence, the fields for investment of capital -- call it what you like. And that does not just happen of its own accord. Such an "extension of the horizons of security" really cannot be obtained free and with no risk.

Strange coincidences happen in life. Amid the thunder of the battles for the MX missiles and the administration's militarist programs in general, one event which could have immense consequences for the development of the United States went almost unnoticed. At this very time the country's Supreme Court decided by seven votes to two that the law adopted after the "Watergate scandal" limiting the size of contributions by political action committees to the funds for presidential campaigns, that is, for buying votes, is a violation of "freedom of speech." Justice White tried without success to persuade his colleagues that the "right to speak" is not the same as the "right to spend money." Far from it.

In other, unfree countries, perhaps. But not in the "free" United States, where everything is money -- time, speech, oaths, freedom itself. Restrictions cannot be brooked. Everyone has his cross to bear. Let the poor man seek work, and the rich man a use for his capital. That is how they decide. Ultimately, Congress, the Supreme Court, and the administration are institutions in the same social system. They express the interests of the same class and preach the same social religion.

House Debate Opens

LD261503 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lyutyy reports:

The House of Representatives of U.S. Congress has begun a debate on the Reagan administration's request for the allocation of 1,500 million dollars in the current financial year for the construction of another 21 MX first-strike intercontinental ballistic missiles in addition to the same number of missiles which are already in production.

As has already been reported, the U.S. Senate under the most strong pressure of the White House compiled with the request of the administration which has now switched over to a massive manipulation of the House of Representatives where the first voting on MX programme is to be held today. President Reagan has urgently recalled Max Kampelman, the leader of the U.S. delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear space arms, from Geneva to Washington.

The delegation leader has set about actively "twisting the arms" of the lawmakers by holding a series of meetings with members of the House of Representatives on the Capitol Hill and then in the White House where Reagan himself joined him. In an attempt to include hesitant lawmakers into supporting the MX programme, Kampelman put forward one absurd thesis after another. According to him, progress at the Geneva talks is ostensibly practically impossible without the MX programme and that the way to reduction of arms lies through....their build-up. Such statements are an overt mockery of common sense and logic. The allusion to the talks of Geneva is being cynically used by the administration for a propagandist cover-up for a continuation of the nuclear arms race.

This is precisely what has been pointed out by many participants in the debate in the House of Representatives. Congressman Edward Markey has stated that the fact that the leader of the U.S. delegation was recalled from the talks solely for the purpose of "pushing" the MX programme through is indicative of the administration's true attitude to the problem of limiting and reducing arms. He pointed out that Kampelman misses the important talks for the sake of advocating an increase in the number of the missiles. This tells a tale. The Geneva talks are being used as a trump card in an attempt to secure an approval of the programme which will cost the U.S. taxpayers 41,000 million dollars, will weaken U.S. security, and undermine stability in the world.

Congressman Parren Mitchell has described the MX programme as dangerous, costly and senseless. The allocation of funds for a continuation of the MX programme now that the U.S.-Soviet talks are being held in Geneva will jeopardize progress at the talks. John Bryant, member of the House of Representatives, has stressed that he is convinced that the USA does not need MX missiles.

Reagan Thanks Congressmen

LD270643 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0450 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 27 Mar (TASS) -- The White House wasted no time in expressing its satisfaction with the fact that the House of Representatives, under unprecedented pressure from the administration, voted in support of the program to produce MX strategic nuclear missiles.

In a special statement, President Reagan expressed his gratitude to those who, in his words, are "facilitating efforts, aimed at modernizing the strategic nuclear potential" of the United States.

Against this backdrop, the White House leader's claims that the vote "is a voice for peace, for success" at the Geneva talks, are, to say the least, illogical. As we well know, these talks aim to put a stop to the arms race, not in any way to step it up. Reagan's statement that the administration is willing "to do everything to bring about a significant reduction in arms," sounds equally demagogic and insincere.

Having "thanked" the congressmen, the President immediately reminded them, that, in accordance with set procedure, the House of Representatives this week faces one more and the deciding round of voting on fund allocation for MX missile production.

REAGAN URGES 'VIOLENT ACTIONS' AGAINST NICARAGUA

LD262354 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- TASS commentator Ruslan Knyazev writes:

The U.S. President reiterated Monday the intention of his administration to seek the overthrow of the legitimate Government of Nicaragua for the sake of "restoring democracy" in that country. This appeal of the head of the White House was made at a gathering of the ultra-right-wing leaders from Central American countries. They specially came to Washington for helping the administration force the Congress to allocate additional resources for the support of the U.S. U.S. mercenaries from among Somocistas.

Just recently Washington strove to convince world public opinion that it did not favour the removal by force of the Sandinista government, that it only fought against the so-called "subversive activities" of Nicaragua in the region.

The U.S. did not admit in any way its participation in actions of Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries and swore its allegiance to the political solution of Central American problems. The situation is different today: The aggressor not only admits that it maintains Somocists ganga, but also openly boasts of its hostile activities against In doing so, the head of the U.S. Administration tries to describe terrorists hired by it who kill women and children as "true representatives" of the Nicaraguan people.

One of the first articles of the U.N. Charter includes a pledge of the U.N. member states to refrain from the threat of force and from the use of force aginst the territorial integrity or political independence of any country. This international organization was set up by the nations that had routed Hitlerite fascism with the aim to ensure universal peace and security.

Today, in the year of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Organization, the head of the major world power on whose territory its constituent conference was held openly calls for violent actions against a small sovereign state.

The point at issue is not only the threat to the freedom and independence of Nicaragua. A year and half ago Washington trampled underfoot the independence of the tiny Grenada allegedly for the sake of "restoring democracy". Today, under the same false pretext, the U.S. wants to arrogate the "right" to start an aggression against any country whose home and foreign policy does not suit the U.S. Administration. Thus, the U.S. seeks to create a dangerous precedent with the aim to undermine the system of the present-day international relations in general, to eliminate the basic principles of the international law.

REAGAN CONTINUES TO WHIP UP 'ANTI-AFGHAN HYSTERIA'

LD261937 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- The U.S. President who continues to whip up anti-Afghan hysteria came up recently with slanderous statements directed against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. At the same time, he spoke out in support of the bandit groups which are waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan from the Pakistani territory.

However, the U.S. Administration does not confine itself to statements alone. U.S. leaders increased recently the volume of military aid delivered to Afghan counterrevolutionaries, including via the Pakistani territory. Humphrey, head of the so-called Group for Afghanistan of the U.S. Senate, will soon visit Pakistan for discussing with the Ziaul Haq regime, as well as with the head of bandit groups, questions connected with the expansion of U.S. military aid and the distribution of armaments coming from the U.S., Saudi Arabia and some other countries among the gangs making sallies into Afghanistan.

BOGACHEV ANALYZES U.S. MOTIVES AT NATO MEETING

LD262141 Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev

Judging from Western press reports, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger believes that his main task at the session of NATO's nuclear planning group that opened in Luxembourg today is to win unqualified support of the European NATO countries for U.S. plans of building up intermediate-range nuclear systems in Europe and preparations for "star wars".

The session attended by defense ministers of NATO countries demonstrates among other things the unconstructive position of the United States on nuclear arms in Europe. In the opinion of observers, the United States intends to prevent representatives of the European NATO countries from a serious discussion of the Soviet proposal on terminating the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe with the simultaneous termination of the buildup of Soviet counter-measures. The Pentagon chief uses the secret meeting of heads of defense departments and chiefs of staffs of NATO member-countries to bring pressure to bear once again on the Netherlands with a view to making it start as early as possible the siting of U.S. cruise missiles in its territory.

Menwhile, the Soviet Union warned Washington that if the U.S.A. continued to deploy intermediate-range nuclear systems in Europe, the situation would deteriorate. On the other hand, the acceptance of the Soviet proposal for a freeze on the nuclear arsenals of the sides, including intermediate-range systems in Europe, would radically promote the resolution of the entire complex of questions discussed in Geneva. The Soviet Union will make everything within its capabilities to attain the objectives of the Geneva negotiations formulated in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement. As the document puts it, the negotiations should lead to the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere.

The Soviet Union will judge about the intentions of the U.S. side from its practical actions, including in the sphere of intermediate-range nuclear arms in Europe. It is important that the United States display goodwill and readiness for reasonable compromises. The observance of the principle of equality and equal security by the parties to the talks is an indispensable condition of the success of the Geneva negotiations.

U.S. PILOTS WARNED AGAINST AIRSPACE INTRUSION

AU261600 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, March 26 (AFP) -- Marshal Aleksander Koldunov, commander-in-chief of Soviet anti-aircraft defences, today issued a disguised warning to U.S. pilots tempted to intrude into Soviet air space.

In a long article in the Army daily KRANSNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), Marshal Koldunov, who is also a deputy defence minister, said: "Lovers of military adventures and brazen provocations from over the Atlantic have more than once been able to convince themselves of the reliability of our weapons and the ability of our soldiers."

The article recalled the U.S. U-2 spy plane shot down by Soviet anti-aircraft fire on May 1, 1960, adding: "It has been the same every time the aggressors have tried to test the efficiency of the protection of our aerial borders: Anti-aircraft forces have given them the answer they deserved."

But Marshal Koldunov did not mention the Soviet shooting down of a South Korean passenger airliner on September 1, 1983, with the deaths of all 269 people on board.

Soviet aerial defence is all the more "complex" because of the "special place" the Western allies give to air attacks in "their aggressive plans," the marshal said. The deployment of U.S. cruise missiles in Western Europe has "considerably increased the danger of attack against the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community," Marshal Koldunov wrote, calling for greater vigilance.

Soviet Air Defence Forces were today equipped with rockets of "great firepower," capable of destroying cruise missiles and jets used to launch missiles, he said. But he said work remained to be done to perfect "the system of command (and) the cooperation of all links of the complex anti-aircraft defence organism."

MCFARLANE REMARKS ON PREEMPTIVE STRIKES CONDEMNED

LD261935 Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- The assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, Robert McFarlane, said here that the United States could not and would not refrain from dealing pre-emptive blows if those were demanded by the circumstances. Judging by his statement, the U.S. Administration will regard as such circumstances any situation it will see as threatening "U.S. interests". McFarlane made it sufficiently clear that delivering a blow would not necessarily require absolute proof that the target was being used for terrorist purposes. In other words, the United States gives itself a free rein. News analysts summed up the presidential assistant's statement as directly indicating that, using the guise of combatting "international terrorism" as a pretext, the United States prepares to expand the use of military force to attain its imperialist aims in any part of the world. It is not ruled out, for instance, that Iran may become one of the countries to come under a U.S. pre-emptive strike.

U.S. 'CONSTANTLY VIOLATES' TOXIC WEAPONS CONVENTION

LD261837 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The United States constantly violates the convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxic weapons and on their destruction, said Professor Nikolay Antonov. He attended, as an expert of the Soviet delegation, a Geneva conference on the verification of the fulfilment of the convention by the countries -- parties to it. He recalled in an interview with a TASS correspondent in connection with the decade of the entry into force of this document, that the Soviet Union was the main initiator and an active participant in drawing up and approving the convention and complies with its provisions. This cannot be said about the United States, he noted. Washington goes on conducting dangerous experiments in circumvention of the biological convention. Even at the time when the negotiations on total prohibition of biological weapons were near their successful fruition, the Pentagon did everything to prevent the curtailing of work in this field. The Pentagon transferred its main center for the development of the biological weapons from Fort Detrick (Maryland) to Dugway Army experimental range in Utah State in the hope to hide it in that desert area. However, information about it leaked into the press. A big staff from the biological laboratories in Fort Detrick and Pine Bluff (Arkansas) are at work at the experimental range. According to the information that leaked into the press, the United States also continues illegally to keep strains of particular deadly diseases and toxins for carrying out covert operations.

Professor Antonov recalled what a terrible trace the use by the U.S. Army of microtoxins during the Vietnam war had left. The Pentagon's experiments are no less dangerous for Americans themselves, the scientist stressed. The press reported that there were cases of mass poisoning of wild Canadian deers and caribou in the area of Dugway experimental range. Fifty wild horses also perished from an unknown disease there after drinking water from a spring. India has recently become a new victim to monstrous experiments. The United States tried to test in that country bacteriological warfare means. Under the cover of scientific aid, it brought into Andhra-Pradesh State seeds, infected with virus and meant for damaging India's major farm crops.

At present, said Nikolay Antonov, Washington continues to develop biological weapons. According to press reports, millions of dollars have been set aside in this fiscal year for the laboratories at Dugway experimental range. The threat to people, said Professor Antonov, will be preserved until work on biological weapons is ceased and its stocks are destroyed completely as is proposed by the Soviet Union and many other states.

ARKHIPOV, PRC AMBASSADOR DISCUSS TRADE TIES

LD262235 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The first Soviet deputy prime minister, Ivan Arkhipov, has received the Chinese ambassador, Li Zewang, at his request. The two sides discussed Sino-Soviet trade and economic relations.

GOSBANK CHIEF RECEIVES CHINESE ECONOMISTS

PM261205 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] V.S. Alkyhimov, chairman of the board of the USSR Gosbank, received a delegation of Chinese economists headed by Zhao Weichen, Vice Minister of the PRC State Economic Committee. A talk took place on questions of mutual interest.

ZA RUBEZHOM REMARKS ON NEW APPROACH TO CHINA

PM261609 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 13 22-28 Mar 85 (Signed to Press 21 Mar 85) p 1

[Editorial: "Man's Chief Right"]

[Excerpts] The attention of the international public, which is thirsting for relaxation of tension and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war, has been fixed on Moscow recently more than usual. Expressing sympathy with the Soviet people in connection with the severe loss they suffered with the death of K.U. Chernenko, the general people's masses heard with satisfaction the confirmation they expected that the Land of the Soviets' Leninist course of strengthening peace and expanding cooperation among peoples will continue to be pursued with the same persistence and consistency. The Soviet leadership confirmed its determination not to deviate from this course in the most convincing manner at the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee Plenum, at the funeral meeting in Red Square, and in the individual meetings with heads of state and government and with leading figures of the communist, workers', and revolutionary democratic parties and progressive organizations.

The Soviet Union's reiterated desire to seriously improve relations with the PRC and the confidence it has expressed that this is possible if the feeling is mutual have been noted not just in China and the Far East in general, but also throughout the world. The nervousness displayed in this connection in imperialist circles has reaffirmed that it is only of benefit to the enemies of socialism for it to be weakened by setting some socialist countries against others. [sentence as published]

UPCOMING PRC NPC SESSION IN BEIJING REPORTED

PM261203 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "NPC Session"]

[Text] Beijing, 23 Mar -- As the Beijing newspapers report, at the routine session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) which has ended here, a resolution was adopted on convening the third session of the NPC, sixth convocation, for 27 March this year.

KCNA CITED ON U.S. 'VIOLATIONS' OF DPRK AIRSPACE

PM261245 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "The Latest Provocation"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 23 Mar -- As the KCNA agency reports, yesterday a U.S. SR-71 reconnaissance plane made an incursion into DPRK airspace east of Kosong.

These increasingly frequent U.S. provocative acts, the agency notes, are associated first and foremost with th stepping up of the joint U.S.-South Korean maneuvers "Team Spirit-85" near the DPRK's borders. In March alone, nine violations of the Republic's airspace by U.S. reconnaissance planes were noted.

Such hostile actions, KCNA points out, whip up to extremes the situation on the Korean peninsula, threaten the DPRK's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and hinder the normalization of the situation and the peaceful unification of Korea.

JAPANESE 'BREACHES' OF FISHING ACCORD VIEWED

LD261203 Moscow TASS in English 2209 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Boris Chekhonin writes:

Prominent Japanese politicians have of late been making statements more than once about their striving to normalize Japanese-Soviet relations, the relations that had aggravated not through the fault of the USSR. These statements were met with satisfaction in the Soviet Union. The Soviet side is convinced that the removal of the artificially created obstacles in the way of the development of versatile goodneighbourly relations is fully in keeping with the interests of the peoples of both countries. Guided by these interests, the Soviet Government came out more than once with constructive initiatives, showed the readiness to consider in a spirit of goodwill appropriate proposals of the Japanese side. The example of this, was, specifically, the conclusion of a long-term agreement on the fishing in the economic zones of the two countries, the agreement that is of advantage to Japan, first of all.

The fishing terms worked out in development of the agreement envisage specifically, the call of fishing vessels into Soviet and Japanese ports for replenishing food stocks and rest of their crews. Practice shows that the Soviet side scrupulously observes all the terms of the agreement.

And how did the Japanese side act? As a result of systematic anti-Soviet provocations staged in 1984 by the Japanese "ultras" with the connivance of the authorities, many teams of Soviet fishing vessels could not be rested in Japan, as is envisaged by the agreement. Despite the promise not to permit such breaches of the arrangement in the future, the Japanese side, apparently, decided to continue that practice this year and to connive with anti-Soviet sallies against crews of Soviet fishing vessels.

As a result of such provocations, Soviet fishermen were unable to get ashore in the Japanese port of Shiogama this month. How can this go together with the terms of the agreement on fishing, with statements of Japanese leaders about the striving to improve relations between the two countries?

It is easy to see that this gross violation of terms of the agreement on fishing by the Japanese side can compel the Soviet side to take enforced measures, above all to decrease the number of its fishing vessels in the Japanese zone and to demand the same reduction from Japan. Such an enforced measure will, understandably, affect Japanese fishermen, whose interests are neglected by the Japanese right-wing forces and the authorities conniving with them. So isn't it better not to carry the matters to this but to observe scrupulously the provisions of the agreement to which the signature of Japan's representative is also fixed?

U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE'S VISIT TO JAPAN NOTED

LD261211 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tokyo March 25 TASS -- Residents of the Japanese port city of Yokosuka met the U.S. nuclear-powered attack submarine, Hawkbill, with a demonstration of protest. The submarine called at the Yokusuka naval base for repairs, resupply and crew rest. Hawkbill belongs to the class of U.S. submarine which are currently being fitted out with nuclear-tipped Tomahawk cruise missile. This is the eighth call of a U.S. submarine missile-carrier to Yokosuka since the beginning of this year.

According to U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, another nuclear-powered submarine, Pollack, will arrived at Sasebo Port tomorrow. More frequent "visits" of nuclear-armed ships of the U.S. Navy to Japan demonstrate that the territory of that country is being increasingly used in the aggressive plans of the Pentagon.

REAGAN REMARKS ON AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED

LD261334 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 25, BAKHTAR-OANA: Three days ago, our honourable, revolutionary and militant people welcomed the revolutioanry fervency and joy the New-Year-Day. They celebrated magnificently the auspicious Nawroz (New-Year-Day) in light of the freedom and vast democratic rights and the better conditions of work and life which have been gained as a result of the National Democratic April Revolution particularly its new and revolutionary phase. The celebration took place all over the revolutionary Afghanistan not only according to the age-old traditions of customs of our people, but also manifested the unity and cohesion of our people around the PDPA and the state of the DRA, as well as their strong determination aimed at defending the gains of the April Revolution.

On the same day, Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, delivered a speech about our country as he usually did in the past few years. He further revealed his hostility vis-a-vis the revolutionary reality in Afghanistan and once again stated with implausible pomp: "I, Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, officially announce March 21, 1985, as the Day of Afghanistan". It is indispensable that the tune of this passage recalls the famous Dari poem about a person who has lost himself and consider himself as the host of other people's houses.

The U.S. President again spoke with flagrant demagogy about the human rights in Afghanistan. Thus he tried to cover the nature of the inhuman and uncivilised undeclared war of the criminal U.S. imperialism and its accomplices against the revolutionary Afghanistan. However, he forgets that the noble people of the world are no longer prone to hear the sacred words such as "human rights" from the mouthpiece of a person whose administration has promoted state terrorism to the level of the official policy of the country, and who is responsible for the shedding of blood of hundreds of patriots in Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Lebanon and other parts of the world as well as hundreds of lives in our independent country, Afghanistan.

The patriots of our country seek the ensuring of the prerequisites for making ever further use of the rights determined by law and freedoms of the progressive laws of their revolutionary country aimed at ever further deepening of the process of the revolution and complete abolition of the cutthroat and criminal bands. The bands are being financed, trained, equipped and armed by the world imperialism headed by the U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and reaction of the region, in particular, the military regime of Pakistan and the ruling reaction of Iran, are exported to our sacred territory for murdering and plundering.

On the other hand the U.S. President has praised these barbarous and uncivilised bandits in his speech and encourages them to continue murdering and plundering in revolutionary Afghanistan. Furthermore, Reagan praises the prerevolution period when monarchical despotism and the corrupted feudal relations were predominant and huge masses of people were deprived of their rights, and lived in poverty, disease, illiteracy and ignorance in Afghanistan.

Imperialism always strives that a handful of corrupted and despotic parasites should rule the people and exploit millions of masses. However, the aware conscience of humanity differentiate progress, social justice from life in backward conditions of the medieval ages.

It comes out from Reagan's speech that he is obviously seeking to get Afghanistan back to its black past in order to restore once again the lost privileges of imperialism in the free-born lands of the Afghans.

But he must know that the wheels of history do not turn back and the emancipated people of Afghanistan will never yield themselves to become once again enslaved. No power in the world is able to detract them from the social and economic system which they have chosen for their happiness as well as for their succeeding generations.

The U.S. President has also striven to distort the facts and to misrepresent the essence of the internationalist aids of the country of Soviets, traditional and honest friend of Afghanistan. However, the peoples of the world fully realise the noble role played by the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union in helping the heroic Army and the militants of Afghanistan as well as in the preserving of security and stability in the region. They understand it very well that the limited military contingents have temporarily come to Afghanistan at the invitation of the legitimate Government of the DRA and in accordance with the treaty of friendship, cooperation and good neighbourliness between the two countries and that of the Article 51 of the UN Charter.

They, likewise, understand that it is indeed the aggressive U.S. imperialism and its allies who are detering the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan and hampering the creation of the necessary conditions for the return of the Soviet Union's limited military contingents to their peaceful country.

Shedding crocodile tears about the situation of the so-called Afghan refugees is another example of demagogy displayed by the Reagan administration because it is well understood by all that the Afghan fugitives, who live far from their country in disease, poverty and are suffering a miserable life, are in fact the victims of the conspiracies, deception and the pressures exerted on them by U.S. imperialists and its allies. It is the U.S. Administration which by pressing Pakistan creates obstacles for the return of the Afghan people to their homeland.

In any case, the main objective of U.S. President is quite evident from the contents of his slanderous speech. The ruler of the White House wants on the one hand to show to the American people as justified the continuation of the financing of the undeclared war against the DRA by spending hundreds of millions of dollars and on the other to encourage the dying counter-revolution for the continuation of their murdering and plundering in Afghanistan. But the time has proved that the enemies of the April Revolution shall never be able to save the counter-revolution from their inevitable annihilation. The marches of hundreds of thousands of the working people throughout the country and the expression of their wrath and indignation against Reagan's intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan are indicative of the fact that the Afghan people are firmly ready to rebuff any kind of interventions and aggressions to be made against the revolutionary Afghanistan with iron punch.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA and the people of Afghanistan severly condemn the hostile, slanderous and demagogical assertions made by Ronald Reagan and describes it as an explicit and inadmissible intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA and the Afghan people pridefully declare that despite the plots and conspiracies of imperialism, hegemonism and reaction in the form of a cruel undeclared war against the DRA, the process of national and democratic revolution in the free, independent, non-aligned and sovereign Afghanistan has proved its irreversibility in action and that the victory of the people of Afghanistan for the construction of a new society in their ancient country is indispensable at the order of history.

KARMAL ADDRESSES TRIBAL ASSEMBLY IN KABUL

LD251206 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul March 25 TASS -- Chiefs and elders of the Pashtun tribe of Mohmand have held a representative Jirga (meeting) here. They were addressed by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He said that international imperialism and regional reaction are continuing their aggressive intrigues against Democratic Afghanistan and seeking to split the unity of the Afghan people who are defending their freedom and independence. Babrak Karmal censured the hostile actions of Pakistani authorities who are trying to force their will on Pashtun tribes and, acting on U.S. prompting, to draw them into the undeclared war being waged against Democratic Afghansitan.

The representatives of the Mohmand tribe declared their support to the progressive gains of the April Revolution and their resolve to rebuff the reactionaries' forays.

PAKISTANI FORCES SUPPRESS AFGHAN TRIBES' PROTESTS

LD261216 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul March 25 TASS -- The Pakistani military regime sent troops, 250 tanks armored personnel carriers to suppress protests of Pashtun tribes in Pakistan's northwestern frontier province that borders on Afghanistan. Pashtuns protest against arbitrary rule of local authorities and the presence of Afghan counter-revolutionary bands in that region.

The Afghan news agency BAKHTAR reports that the Pakistani Army blocked the Khyber region adjacent to the Afghan frontier and cut off food supplies to settlements situated there.

PRAVDA NOTES OUTCOME OF BANGLADESH REFERENDUM

PM261603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Referendum in Bangladesh"]

[Text] Dacca, 22 Mar -- A national referendum has been held in Bangladesh. In it voters had to declare their attitude to the policy and programs of the government of General H.M. Ershad.

According to incomplete data, more than 94 percent of those who took part in the referendum voted for H.M. Ershad, which is almost 28 million people, while around 1.5 million people voted against him.

The referendum was held with a total ban on political and trade union activity and while maintaining martial law.

BELYAYEV DISCUSSES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

PM261609 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Mar 85 p 9

[Igor Belyayev article under the rubric "Viewpoint": "Lebanon's Bloody Spring"]

[Text] In March, the Israeli occupying corps has unleashed a storm of punitive operations on southern Lebanon, in the area which Israel is still holding on to. If Minister Rabin, head of the military department in the Peres government, is to be believed, it is a question of "protecting the life of Israeli soldiers."

The very logic of the Israeli-Lebanese war -- the "longest" of all the Israeli-Arab wars -- contradicts this blatantly false explanation. The patriots' resistance in southern Lebanon did not emerge today. It was the constant losses of Israeli soldiers on the Lebanese front from the very beginning of the aggression, as well as the war's undermining of the Israeli economy, that forced Peres and Rabin to start talking about withdrawing from this Arab country. Both Labor Party leaders like to represent the withdrawal of troops as practically a kindness they are conferring on the Arabs.

In fact everything is quite different. Israel has no intention of leaving southern Lebanon. On the contrary, the Israeli politicians and generals -- regardless of their party affiliation, incidentally -- want to hold on to a significant area of Lebanese territory.

Rabin is known to support joining part of southern Lebanon, from the Al-Litani river on to Israel. The waters of the Al-Litani could be used to irrigate northern Israel, where, Rabin believes, there is a water shortage.

The present chief of general staff, General Levi, calls for the Israelis to hold on to a corridor for Israeli Army soldiers to be shipped into Al-Biqa' valley should the need arise. A bridgehead there is extremely necessary for subversive actions against neighboring Syria. This would not take place now. Today, Tel Aviv has no thought of a war against Damascus. But Gen Levi believes that the unfavorable conditions could change for the better in the future, in a year's time, perhaps. Then a "Lebanese corridor" to Syria could be needed. There was a good reason why Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir stated recently that "the time has not yet come for a new initiative with the aim of resuming talks on peace in the Near East."

Finally, there is another reason -- connected with Israeli-U.S. interests. I have in mind the Israeli and U.S. reluctance to give up Mount al-Baruk in southern Lebanon, where a very important radar station for monitoring the eastern Mediterranean and the Damascus region is located. It is fitted with U.S. equipment and the station personnel are made up of both Israeli and U.S. servicemen.

Last year, when talks began between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations in Al-Naqurah, the Lebanese insisted that the occupiers withdraw fully and unconditionally from the south. They demanded to be given a schedule for the Israeli Army's withdrawal. In the course of the talks, all of Israel's claims to southern Lebanon -- whatever factors were used to justify them -- were rejected.

Coming up against the unshakable will of the Lebanese, supported by all the Arabs, Israel unilaterally broke off the talks in Al-Naqurah. Its next step was to refuse to give a schedule for the withdrawal of the occupation corps from southern Lebanon. Then, as early as this February, the punitive actions against the peaceful population began and continue to this day. References to "Shi'ite guerrillas" are only a cover for the atrocities unleashed on all Lebanese.

At the same time, Israeli agents embarked on the destabilization of Lebanon from within. I have in mind not only the explosions in Beirut and other cities in the nonoccupied part of the country which have been prepared and carried out in recent weeks. In March a section of the so-called "Lebanese Forces" -- the military formations of his own Phalange Party -- came out against President al-Jumayyil, which, of course, exacerbated the already tense situation in Lebanon. Rabin started saying that there is no government in this Arab country, and so Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon remains in question.

The purpose of the intimidation of Lebanon is obvious. Through punitive measures and totally unjustified cruelty in the occupied part of this Arab country, the Israeli politicians and military are, so to speak, proposing to its government, which is firmly protecting the Lebanese' interests, and its president: Accept our terms for the "withdrawal," that is, yield part of your territory and sovereignty -- and everything will return to normal immediately.

If the Press government succeeds in Lebanon, another precedent will be created for a separate "peace" in the Near East, as Israel, and the United States, would like. After all, it was no accident that the U.S. delegate to the Security Council, exercising the right of veto yet again, blocked a resolution censuring Israel and demanding an end to the occupiers' atrocities in southern Lebanon.

That is what lies behind events in Lebanon. The bloody March in this Arab country will go down in history as further evidence of the failure of Israel's Lebanese adventure. I am convinced that Rabin and Peres will not succeed in getting their way.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL CITED ON AID TO LEBANESE 'PATRIOTS'

LD261419 Moscow TASS in English 1118 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus March 26 TASS -- Syria will continue to counter the attempts to carry through the plans of the Israeli expansionists and to establish U.S. dominance in the Middle East, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the People's Council of the Syrian Arab Republic, has stated. He noted at the talks which began here with a delegation of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic led by Stanislaw Gucwa, marshal of the Sejm, that Syria was waging struggle for the restoration of the lawful rights of the Arab peoples trampled by the Zionists and for the liberation of all the Israel-occupied Arab lands. Proceeding from this principle, Syria is rendering adequate assistance to the struggle of the Lebanese patriots against the Zionist invaders, Mahmud al-Zu'bi stressed. The leader of the Polish parliamentary delegation spoke highly of the policy pursued by the Syrian leadership. In the course of the talks, the SANA news agency reports, the sides exchanged opinion on the situation in the region and spoke in favour of more intensive joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their allies.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONGRATULATES KUWAITI PREMIER

PM261255 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 85 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has sent a telegram to Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, congratulating him on his reappointment to the post of Kuwaiti head of government. In a reply telegram, the Kuwaiti head of government expressed sincere gratitude for the cordial congratulations. The telegrams express the hope that the existing friendly relations between the USSR and Kuwait will continue to develop for the good of both countries' peoples.

MINISTER LAUDS SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN FRIENDSHIP

EA261930 Moscow in Amharic to Ethiopia 1530 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Friendship and Cultural Association With Other Countries has left for a visit to Ethiopia. The delegation is led by Nikolay Vasilyev, president of the USSR-Ethiopia Friendship Association and land reclamation and water development minister. Before departing for Addis Ababa, Nikolay Vasilyev made the following statement to Radio Moscow:

[Begin Vasilyev recording in Russian over Amharic translation] The team of delegates of the Soviet-Ethiopia Friendship Association is visiting Ethiopia at the invitation of the Soviet-Ethiopia Friendship Committee. The visit will enable us to attend the 40th anniversary of the permanent Soviet exhibition in Addis Ababa together with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the defeat of the fascists. We shall also discuss the further strengthening of the ties of friendship and cultural development between our two countries. The duties of the Soviet-Ethiopia Friendship Association are wide and cover various aspects. It brings together well-known personalities from government, politics, and the social sphere, as well as teams of workers from various industrial organizations. Their duties can be generalized within the framework of friendship. Hence we have to work hard for the strengthening and flourishing of the friendship to create mutual understanding among our peoples. In this respect, the permanent Soviet exhibition in Addis Ababa has a great role to play. The exhibition has become the information center whereby Ethiopian friends are informed of the Soviet Union's achievements in the cultural, scientific, and technical sectors and of the Soviet people's experiences in socialist development. The exhibition is one of the ways in which comprehensive cooperation between the USSR and Ethiopia is enhanced, friendship clubs are expanded, and friendship relations are strengthened. Our visit is being carried out on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the victory over the fascists in which the people of the USSR played a decisive role. This anniversary is a great event to all progressive people throughout the world.

In the world war against the fascists, the people of Ethiopia made a considerable contribution. As is known, Ethiopia was itself challenged by this terrible problem. It was one of the first targets of the fascists and yet was the first country to be liberated from the fascists. The people of the USSR note the important role played by the Ethiopian people in the fall of fascists. Most years, when we celebrate the anniversary of the fall of fascism, we always call for the war threat created by imperialist forces to be removed, for the friendship and cooperation of our peoples in the struggle, and for the progressive forces of the world to combine their efforts to this end. As the USSR is a nation in which many nationalities are represented, we can and must whenever possible strengthen friendship and mutual understanding, the expansion of antiwar movements for the perpetuation of peace in the world, and the communal struggle of peoples against war. Today, when we are heading for friendly and welcoming Ethiopia, on behalf of the Soviet nationalities we express the solidarity of the Soviet nationalities with the struggle of the Ethiopian people in building a new life and defending the fruits of their revolution. [end recording]

KILLINGS, 'GENOCIDE' IN SOUTH AFRICA DISCUSSED

MB261510 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Mikhail Vishinskiy commentary]

[Text] The number of people who are being harassed by the South African Government is growing daily.

Last Thursday, the racist police shot at demonstrators in Langa township. According to the United Democratic Front, UDF, the only lawful political organization in South Africa, the number of casualties from this incident exceeds 70. You are now invited to hear (Mikhail Vishinskiy), a noted Soviet lawyer and member of the antiapartheid committee.

[Begin (Vishinskiy) recording in Russian fading into Zulu translation] The reports emanating from South Africa leave one dumbfounded. The African demonstrators who are demanding the end of apartheid are being ruthlessly repressed. Not a single day passes without some loss of life and injuries to many, while others become unwilling guests in the country's jails. The South African Government is quite determined to forcibly move the indigenous people from their present homes and push them into the bantustans. Not too long ago, the South African Government moved quite harshly against the Crossroads residents, who are refusing to vacate their residences.

How can this action be viewed in terms of law? The behavior of the South African racists toward the indigenous people does not qualify for any description other than that of genocide against Coloreds and Africans. According to international law, the attempt to do away with specific racial groups is a very serious crime. This is quite clear in the South African situation. Today, in 2 million Africans have been forcibly moved into the South African bantustans. What is the future of these people in the bantustans? Bantustans lack the basic ingredients for healthy life: medical facilities, employment opportunities, and abundance of food. So the fate that awaits the new arrivals is straight perdition.

Those Africans and Coloreds residing in the so-called white areas are forced to labor for meager salaries compared to those of whites, doing similar work. They receive salaries ten times less than those of whites. In addition, they are deprived of all human rights in politics and other activities. Therefore, there is undeniable evidence that the South African Government has embarked on a genocidal policy against the indigenous people. We can recall the a similar regime existed during World War II -- the Nazis in Germany embarked on a genocidal policy against the Jews, Slavs, and certain African tribes. The intentional destruction of ethnic groups through genocidal policies is a very serious crime against mankind.

Those who support such regimes are equally guilty of genocide. In this case, the Western countries are fully culpable, with the United States leading the pack that bolsters the South African regime in the fields of economics, banking, defense, and politics. The ruthlessness of the South African Government has been strongly criticized worldwide, but the Reagan administration, according to AFP reports, expressed tacit approval of the shooting by South African police of 21 [number as heard] demonstrators on 21 March. The Reagan administration bemoaned the Africans' determination to unravel the entangled South African situation through the use of force. Reagan described the peaceful demonstrators as brute force thugs, and at no time criticized their unprovoked killings. By doing so, Reagan gave comfort and encouragement to the racists to carry on with their unreservedly cruel practices. It is quite clear that the apartheid policies pursued by the South African Government are firmly supported by the Western countries, who are equally guilty of genocide. They are guilty of encouraging man-slaughter of ethnic groups in South Africa.

Such practices as genocide were roundly condemned during the Nuremberg trials, when the Nazis faced prosecution for crimes against humanity. The crime was described as bestial and unworthy of human beings. Despite all those warnings, genocide as a political weapon continues to be used and the West is fully behind it in South Africa. All those who are faithful to humanity say: Down with genocide, a heinous crime against humanity. [end recording]

MEETING DEMANDS U.S. 'OCCUPATION' OF GRENADA END

LD270021 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- A meeting of the Soviet public devoted to the sixth anniversary of the people's revolution in Grenada was held in Moscow today. The meeting demanded an immediate end to the U.S. occupation of Grenada, and respect for the sovereignty and legitimate rights of the Grenadian people.

The Grenadian revolution was a bright page in the history of the liberation movement of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, Aleksandr Chakovskiy, chairman of the Soviet Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Committee, pointed out. It toppled the hated dictatorship, which had relied on support of U.S. imperialism, proclaimed and has successfully translated into life the programme for creating a new just society. This was precisely what caused the fury of the U.S. Administration and the U.S. intervention, which stemmed the revolutionary process in Grenada.

Addressing the meeting, Don Rojas, a participant in the revolution and former press-secretary in Maurice Bishop's government, spoke about the Grenadian patriots' resistance to the regime of rightlessness and oppression, which had been installed in the country as a result of the U.S. intervention. The people of Grenada has not been crushed, he said. The ideas of the Grenadian revolution, the glorious name of its leader Maurice Bishop, who died in the name of happiness of his people, continue living, said Don Rojas.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA SIGNED IN CARACAS

LD270011 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1644 GMT 26 Mar 85

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A trade agreement between the Soviet Union and Venezuela has been signed in Caracas.

Signing the document on the Venezuelan side was Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, and on the Soviet side, the USSR ambassador in Venezuela, Vaino Valjas.

Great significance is being attached here to the signed document as it opens up new possibilities in economic relations between the two countries.

[Begin Consalvi recording] A leading place in our country's economy is occupied by the extraction and export of oil. However, we would also like to export other products. In this we are placing great hopes on the development of relations with the USSR and other socialist countries. We can note with satisfaction that the Soviet Union and Venezuela have at their disposal broad possibilities for the further consolidation of all-round links. [end recording]

IMF DECISION TO DENY CREDITS TO ARGENTINA VIEWED

LD260927 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS -- TASS commentator Ruslan Knyazev writes: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has decided to grant no more credits to Argentina, according to reports from Washington. This applies first of all to a 500,000,000-dollar loan needed by the Latin American country to repay interest on its external debt.

The Argentine constitutional government, which has taken over after many years of military rule, pursues an independent policy which clearly irks Washington. The independent nature of Argentina's policy was vividly demonstrated during the just-ended visit of its President Raul Alfonsin to the United States, during which he came out once again for an end to foreign interference in Central America and for a political settlement in the region. Argentina does not want to allow its national wealth to be plundered by foreign monopolies.

It also wants Latin American states to work out a single position in order to elaborate acceptable terms for paying back their huge foreign debts. Defending the selfish interests of American corporations, the White House is opposed to such joint actions of debtor countries.

In this situation the U.S.-controlled IMF's decision to deny Argentina the funds it badly needs is fresh evidence of the Washington administration's striving to take advantage of the financial plight of Latin American countries in order to make them adopt the political and economic policies suiting itself. It is under similar circumstances that the selfsame fund recently denied credits to Brazil.

Such measures of discrimination are typical not only of the IMF but also other similar financial institutions. The U.S. State Department recently, for instance, made the Inter-American Development Bank, by confronting it with an ultimatum, deny Nicaragua a credit which was meant to give aid to small peasant holdings. Meanwhile, such a pro-American regime as the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile keeps getting ever new loans from international banks without a hindrance.

Thereby, acting under the cover of demagogical declarations about protecting "free enterprise", Washington in fact wages economic aggression against Latin American countries. But its attempts to use its financial power as a tool of political diktat are resisted by most states in the region, which resolutely defend their sovereign rights.

FRG PAPER ON CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE APRIL MEETING

DW271105 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 27 Mar 85 p 2

[Article signed KUE: "First Central Committee Meeting Under Gorbachev in Late April"]

[Text] Moscow -- The first regular meeting of the CPSU Central Committee following Mikhail Gorbachev's election as general secretary will reportedly be held in late April. It was learned in Moscow that the plenum will deal with preparations for the 27th party congress. The spring meeting of the Supreme Soviet has been announced for as late as June. At this meeting of the parliament, the post of head of state, which has been vacant since the death of party-state chief Chernenko, might be filled. In the fall of 1984, Chernenko announced that the application of science and techuology in the economy would be the topic of the "next" Central Committee plenum. This was not mentioned again even prior to his death. The 11 March Central Committee Plenum at which Gorbachev was elected Chernenko's successor was a special plenum. In keeping with a 5-year sequence, the party congress would have to be held no later than February 1986, but it is expected as soon as December. At this congress, the 1961 party program is to be rephrased, an economic program up to the year 2000 adopted, and the Central Committee newly constituted.

FURTHER ON RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

Council of Ministers Statement

LD261256 Moscow TASS in English 1248 GMT 26 Mar 85

["Statement by the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, was reappointed today chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation at a session of the Supreme Soviet of this biggest Soviet Union Republic which has a population of over 142 million.

In his statement Vitaliy Vorotnikov stressed that measures would be taken, in accordance with the CPSU's line, to further raise the living standards of the Soviet people, to promote science and culture, improve health services and the education system and to create favourable conditions for an all-round development of the individual.

"The Russian Federation is a fraternal community comprising over a hundred socialist nations and nationalities. The government will invariably pursue the party's policy of strengthening the friendship of the peoples -- the great gain of socialism and a major condition, for the flourishing of our great multi-national homeland," Vitaliy Vorotnikov said.

The Council of Ministers, expressing the will of the working people of the Russian Federation, fully supports the peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, a policy aimed at creating favourable international conditions for socialist construction, defending and strengthening world peace and developing cooperation on an equal footing among all countries.

The government of the Russian Federation considers it its sacred duty to actively assist the efforts of the CPSU and the state to further strengthen the cohesion of the socialist community and to develop all-round cooperation among the fraternal countries. The working people of the republic, like the people of the entire country, solidarise with the struggle developing states and all progressive, democratic forces for stronger independence and social progress and come out against any encroachments on the sovereignty and freedom of the peoples.

"We are satisfied to note that the Soviet initiatives, indicating a constructive and realistic way to curb the arms race, limit and reduce armaments, have met with a broad response around the world. The Soviet Union has been consistently seeking mutually acceptable accords that would help improve the international situation and deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear war," Vitaliy Vorotnikov stressed.

Vorotnikov Speech

LD261852 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Today was the first day of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session. The deputies adopted a decision approving the activity of the government of the RSFSR. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet again appointed Deputy Vorotnikov as chairman of the Council of Ministers. As proposed by Vorotnikov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic, the composition of the RSFSR government was approved. Deputy Vorotnikov delivered a statement from the RSFSR Council of Ministers on its forthcoming activity. He said:

[Begin Vorotnikov recording] Esteemed comrades, deputies, permit me on behalf of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, formed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, to express sincere gratitude for the higher confidence you have shown in us. The first session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation is taking place in an atmosphere of universal approval of the decisions of the March Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, in an atmosphere of great political and labor enthusiasm evoked by preparations for the forthcoming 27th CPSU Congress, the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. The unanimous election at the plenum of Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev as CPSU general secretary evoked fervent approval from Communists and all Soviet people and broad international response. [applause]

The RSFSR government will direct its activity to implementing the tasks put forward by the CPSU at the comtemporary stage. Under the leadership of the CPSU Central Committee, it will concentrate its efforts on the main direction of perfecting developed socialism, the fuller use of its possibilities and advantages; will seek to achieve a dynamic and stable economic and social development of all regions of the republic, the raising of the contribution of the RSFSR to the strengthening of the unified national-economic complex, and to the consolidation of the country's defense might.

Measures will be implemented for the further raising of the welfare of the Soviet people, for the upsurge of science, culture, for improving the health care system and education, and for creating favorable conditions for the harmonious development of the personality.

The Russian Federation is a fraternal community that unites more than 100 socialist nations and ethnic groups. The government will unswervingly carry out the party's policy on strengthening friendship between peoples, the great gain of socialism, the most important condition for the flourishing of our great multination homeland. The main attention, as before, of the Council of Ministers will be concentrated on ensuring the continued upsurge of the economy. The unconditional fulfilling of the plans for the current year, and of socialist pledges undertaken, first and foremost relating to extra growth of labor productivity, lowering the costs of production, economizing fuel and energy and other material resources, observing delivery contracts, and agreements relating to the quality of production, must become a prime obligation. The fulfillment of the pledge adopted by collectives at enterprises and organizations of the republic to work 2 days this year on economized materials, raw material, and fuel will be significant in this respect.

In formulating the tasks of the 12th 5-Year plan and their practical implementation, the RSFSR government will proceed from the view that the new 5-year plan is one of great qualitative changes in production; one of the decisive turning points in intensifying it on the basis of a considerable speeding up of scientific-technical progress and the renewal and enhancing of the technical level of productive assets.

One of the highest aims of our Leninist party is the raising of the prosperity and the improvement of all aspects of the life of the people. In the final analysis, the development of the socialist economy is subordinated precisely to this. The RSFSR Council of Ministers considers the ensuring of an increasingly high level of material sufficiency, and a meaningful cultural and spiritual life for working people in the Russian Federation, as a task of great state importance.

Comrade deputies, expressing the will of the working people of the Russian Federation, the Council of Ministers fully supports the peaceful foreign policy course of the CPSU and Soviet state aimed at ensuring favorable international conditions for socialist construction and at protecting and consolidating universal peace and the development of equitable cooperation between countries.

In readiness to welcome the 27th CPSU Congress and the national holiday of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, the working people of the republic, and of the whole country, are multiplying efforts aimed at strengthening the economic and defense might of our homeland and consolidating peace and the development of international cooperation.

Comrade deputies, permit me on behalf of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation to express sincere gratitude for the high trust shown and to assure the CPSU Central Committee, and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, that the government of the republic will persistently and insistently work for the successful implementation of the plans outlined by the party, and for the further flourishing of the economy and culture of our great homeland. [applause] [end recording]

Yasnov Retires Due to Health

LD261243 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The first session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation opened in the Great Kremlin Palace in Moscow today.

Deputy Ligachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, takes the floor: [Begin recording] Esteemed comrade deputies, first of all we must decide upon the question of the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. As you know, Comrade Mikhail Alekseyevich Yasnov worked in this post for quite a lengthy period, starting from 1966. In connection with his deteriorating health, particularly recently, Comrade Mikhail Alekseyevich Yasnov, has been retired [pereveden na pensiyu].

The party Central Committee has entrusted me with submitting for examination by the present session a proposal, supported by the party group and the Council of Elders, that Deputy Vladimir Pavlovich Orlov be elected as chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet presidium. He has been first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers since 1979. [applause] [end recording]

This proposal was adopted unanimously.

Deputy Ryzhkov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, takes the floor:

[Begin recording] On the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee, I propose that the activity of the RSFSR Council of Ministers be approved. Giving a positive assessment of the work of Comrade Vitaliy Ivanovich Vorotnikov in the capacity of chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, the party central committee has decided to recommend him again for this lofty post. It is also proposed that Deputy Vitaliy Ivanovich Vorotnikov be entrusted with presenting for examination by the Supreme Soviet the proposal regarding the composition of the government of the Russian Federation. [end recording]

Land-Improvement Report Given

LD262305 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Today Deputy Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, delivered a report at the Supreme Soviet session of the Russian Federation on measures to increase the organizational work of administrative and economic bodies of the republic in implementing the long-term program of land-improvement and raising the efficiency of the use of improved lands in the light of the decisions of the October 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

The Russian Federation disposes of the largest expanse of land in the country. The food program envisages that the task of almost one half of the production of all agricultural products falls to the RSFSR, including 56 percent of grain. Thanks to the constant attention and the great help on the part of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, the purposeful work of the party administrative and economic bodies, the selfless labor of land-improvers, and collective and state farm workers, land-improvement in the Russian Federation has been greatly developed. After the May 1966 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, the area of irrigated and drained lands in the republic expanded three times, and now makes up over 10 million hectares. While estimating at its true worth the work on the development of land-improvement, we, stressed the rapporteur, cannot be content with what has been achieved. Great concern is evoked by the facts when major financial and material resources invested into water supply system construction are not being used efficiently enough; crop capacity on irrigated and drained lands remains low. At the present stage in the economic and social development of the country, the course for intensification acquires particular significance. A central place in solving this task is occupied by the long-term program of land-improvement and raising the efficiency of improved lands with a view to a steady buildup of the country's food reserves, worked out and confirmed by the October 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

In the Russian Federation what lies ahead is to double the area of land being improved and increase it to 18-19.5 million hectares before the year 2000. R22 billion of state capital investments are allocated for implementing the whole set of measures just for the 12th 5-Year Plan. However, as was stressed at the All-Union Economic Conference on the Problems of the Agro-Industrial Complex, the increased investment into draining and irrigation cannot in itself guarantee a speedy growth in production, if the management and organization of the whole water supply system construction and the use of capital investments and improved lands are not improved. A great role in bringing about this condition belongs to the soviets of people's deputies.

Implementing the long-term program is a truly national matter, and this assumes that the soviets should more broadly attract to this enterprises and organizations, not only the ones included in the agro-industrial complex, but also those from other branches in the national economy. It is essential that administrative and agricultural bodies should close up the interests of science with production more tightly.

Then there was talk in the report of the necessity to observe measures of environmental protection. Solving these problems in the interests of the present and future generations is the direct duty of soviets. A subject of particular concern for the local soviets, ministries, and departments must be people. Alongside the commissioning of industrial units, it is essential to build dwellings, schools, out patient clinics, clubs, to lay roads, and to improve medical and trade services. A qualitatively new approach to implementing the long-term program of land-improvement makes new, and higher demands on cadres and their competence and professional skill. Recently the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decree on the establishment of the honorary title of Honored Land-Improver of the USSR. This is a convicing testiomy to how highly the party and government value the difficult labor of the land-improvers.

The session of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet is continuing its work.

26 March Proceedings Conclude

LD261459 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The session of the Eleventh Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, which opened in the Kremlin today, has ended the first day of its work.

The deputies paid a minute's tribute of silence to the memory of Konstantin Chernenko.

They elected a 39-member presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation with Vladimir Orlov as its president.

In accordance with the Constitution the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation made a statement on lyaing down its duties. At the suggestion of Deputy Nikolay Ryzhkov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, was reappointed the head of government of the Russian Federation. He introduced to the Supreme Soviet the personal composition of the newly formed Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation and made a statement on its forthcoming work.

The deputies established 17 standing commissions as well as a republican People's Control Committee, elected a Supreme Court of the republic and endorsed the decrees of the Presidium of the republican Supreme Soviet.

The Auditing Commission checked, in accordance with the law, the credentials of the deputies elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on February 24 this year and found all of them valid.

The session is to discuss measures to carry out a long-term programme for land betterment in the republic. Deputy Lev Yermin, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, made a report on this matter.

The session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation is to continue its work tomorrow.

Activities Resume 27 March

LD270937 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Today is the second day of work of the first session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation in the Great Kremlin Palace.

Deputies and guests welcomed Comrades Vorotnikov, Solomentsev, Kuznetsov, Kapitonov, and Ligachev with prolonged applause. Debates continue at the session now on tasks for implementing the long-term land improvement program and of improving the efficiency of using reclaimed lands in the light of the decisions of the October 1984 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

Deputy Shcherbak, chairman of the Krasnodar Krayispolkom, Deputy Naberezhnev, first deputy chairman of the Moscow Oblispolkom, and Deputy Monastyreva, vegetable growers' team leader from the Komsomolets Sovkhoz in Volgograd Oblast, have already spoken in the debates.

The debates on the report continue.

Session Concludes

LD271039 Moscow TASS in English 1029 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- The issues of raising land amelioration to a qualitatively new level, using its potentialities on a broader scale for enhancing the stability of farming, and consistently implementing the USSR food programme were in the focus of attention of the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, which closed its work here today.

It was noted at the session that more than 43 billion roubles in state capital investment was channelled for land improvement in the republic in recent years. The area of ameliorated land trebled and is now estimated at more than ten million hectares.

During the first session of the 11th Supreme Soviet, its deputies elected Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and formed a new government of the republic. Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee Deputy Vitaliy Vorotnikov was appointed chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

On the results of the session, the deputies adopted corresponding decrees and resolutions.

ANTONOV PRESENTS RED BANNER AWARD TO RSFSR

LD261223 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Mar 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Central Committee of the Komsomol was presented to the Russian Federation today at a festive ceremony in the House of the Soviets of the RSFSR in Moscow. This has been awarded to the republic for achievement of high results in the All-Union Socialist Competition and for the successful fulfillment of the state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1984. Present in the hall were representatives from all krays, oblasts, and autonomous republics in the Russian Federation. In the Presidium were Comrades Vorotnikov, Kapitonov, Ryzhkov; senior staff of the CPSU Central Committee and of the USSR Council of Ministers, leaders of ministries and departments, people in the forefront in production.

Comrade Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, spoke at the meeting. He congratulated the representatives of the republic on the lofty award of the homeland and presented the Challenge Red Banner.

Comrade Vorotnikov expressed heartfelt gratitude for the high appraisal of the labor of the working people of the Russian Federation.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS AKTIVS MEETING IN KIEV

AU261453 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1345 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The tasks of party, administrative, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organizations in the Ukrainian SSR for ensuring the fulfillment of the national economic plan and socialist pledges adopted for 1985 were discussed at a meeting of the republic's party and economic aktivs, which was held today in Kiev. The republic's representatives were handed over a CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and USSR Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner, in recognition of the high results attained in All-Union Socialist Competitions, and the successful fulfillment of the 1984 state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR.

Presiding over the meeting were Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; Martynov, CPSU Central Committee member, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, and chairman of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply; Yelchenko, Kachalovskiy, Kachura, Lyashko, Mironov, Mozgovov, Sologub, Titarenko, Shevchenko, Dobrik, Kapto, [names indistinct], members and candidate members of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo; Mironenko, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary and other comrades.

Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy opened the meeting.

The floor was offered to Martynov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, who wholeheartedly congratulated the Ukraine's working people on the high award and, to the applause of the audience, presented the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the USSR Komsomol Central Committee to the republic's representatives.

Masal, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman and Gosplan chairman, delivered a report at the party and economic aktivs meeting.

The meeting listened to speeches by Krivoruchko, Vinnitsa Obkom first secretary; Vivcharuk, section chief in the Kommunist Mine under the Zhovtneve Coal Mining Association in Donetsk Oblast; Sklyarov, Ukrainian minister of power and electrification; Matviychuk, milling machine operator at the Kiev Lathe Building Association; (Kayan), milkmaid at the Kommintern Kolkhoz in Nedrigaylovskiy Rayon, Sumy Oblast; and (Gvintsov), complex brigade leader at the Industrial Construction Administration No 3 under the Krivoy Rog Aglobud Trust.

The meeting was addressed by Lyashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman.

The meeting participants adopted a unamimous resolution calling on the republic's party, administrative, economic, trade union, Komsomol organizations, and all working people to aspire for new successes in economic and cultural construction, in raising the people's prosperity. A message of greetings to the CPSU Central Committee was adopted with great enthusiasm. The participants in the republic's party and economic aktivs meeting assured the CPSU Central Committee that the Soviet Ukraine's Communists and working people would do their utmost to accomplish the tasks set for them by the CPSU Central Committee plenum and to successfully fulfill the 1985 plan and socialist pledges, and that they would give a worthy welcome to the 27th CPSU Congress.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS UKRAINIAN SUPREME SOVIET

AU271105 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] A routine session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium was held on 26 March. The presidium discussed issues concerning the holding of the first session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation, and adopted appropriate decrees and decisions.

Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, participated in the session.

MARTYNOV PRESENTS CHALLENGE RED BANNER TO UKRAINE

AU261019 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0915 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] In the fourth year of the current 5-year plan, the Ukrainian SSR made an important step forward in all sectors of economic and social development drawn up by the 26th CPSU Congress. The 4-year targets for percentage increase in the national income, for raising labor productivity, and for putting into operation fixed assets were exceeded. In 1984, the pledges assumed for raising industrial production were overfulfilled, and the volume of agricultural production obtained was the highest ever. The effectiveness of the national economy increased and qualitative indexes improved. The Ukrainian SSR has been awarded a Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the USSR Komsomol Central Committee for the results scored in All-Union Socialist Competitions, and for the successful fulfillment of the 1984 state plan for economic and social development.

At a meeting of party and economic activs taking place in the Ukrainian capital city, this honorary award has just been presented to the republic's representatives by Martynov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman.

ROY MEDVEDEV ON USSR'S PROSPECTS UNDER GORBACHEV

PM261551 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 24-25 Mar 85 p 9

[Interview with Soviet historian Roy Medvedev by Rodolfo Brancoli in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow -- Roy Aleksandrovich, what kind of man is Mikhail Gorbachev? "As far as I know and can see, he is an honest, capable, intelligent, and educated man. Above all, however, he is a lucky man, because agriculture has always constituted the graveyard of people's careers, whereas he, having been secretary of agriculture, has become general secretary. He also comes after Chernenko and the contrast is such that it grants him the country's utmost support from the start and he has become general secretary just a few months before the congress, which will enable him to control the selection of delegations and to renovate the Central Committee immediately."

Roy Medvedev is speaking again after a year's enforced silence, and his reappearance on the Moscow scene coincides with a political and generational change that is prompting interest everywhere. "It is justified interest because the accession to power of a new generation is of great value.

"Of course, Gorbachev can be considered young only because the country has been led by septuagenarians. It is conceivable, however, that he will begin to promote people even younger than himself, because a system in which 65 year-olds are promoted is not a good system. Let us be frank: Gorbachev's generation includes conservatives, bureaucrats, and dishonest people, as does every political generation, but at least he seems to me to be a welcome exception and is indeed a very capable man and an educated leader.

"During the years when he was studying law at Moscow University the admission standards were very tough and the standard of teaching and study very high. In the late forties Stalin decided that the USSR, too, should have its Oxford and Cambridge and concentrated the best intellectual forces in Moscow and Leningrad. Furthermore,, Gorbachev received economic training: He is not just an agronomist but an economist, and as we understand it, economics is one of the humanities, too. In other words, he has the kind of education and culture that perhaps only Lenin had before him. Not that I want to draw a comparison between Lenin and Gorbachev, far from it, but neither do I want to forget that Lenin also attended the faculty of jurisprudence in the capital of the time, St Petersburg. Lastly, he is an honest man. I lived for a long time in Stavropol (where Gorbachev held down all kinds of party posts from 1956 through 1978 -- LA REPUBBLICA editor's note), and I return there every year on vacation, and I have never heard anyone say that he was in any way involved in corruption."

[Brancoli] You have pointed out that Gorbachev is a very lucky man, and in politics this never does any harm. But his is an extraordinary story: Summoned to Moscow in 1979 by Brezhnev, in 1982 he becomes Andropov's closest aide and in 1985 general secretary. What is the explanation for such a rapid rise? How did it happen, leaving aside imponderable coincidences?

[Medvedev] In our system people advance by being coopted: Ours is a system of favoritism. The fact that he was brought into Brezhnev's secretariat to take charge of agriculture does not bind him to Brezhnev, however, partly because this usually is a step that precedes the end, not the beginning, of a career.

Obviously toward the end of the seventies Andropov, who had his sights set on power and was laying all the groundwork to attain his objective by establishing friendly political relations within the upper echelons of the party, must have noticed Gorbachev's potential.

[Brancoli] But did this happen because, with the little time available to him, Andropov could only depend on someone already in the Politburo and the Secretariat, or partly because of a genuine political and cultural similarity?

[Medvedev] I would say a combination of both. Both men are characterized by a number of shared traits. They are cultured people, though Andropov was in many respects self-taught. They are people with a sharp intellect, capable of understanding what their priorities should be. They seem to have shared opinions on many fundamental political issues, for instance, a great intolerance of any form of corruption. I am not trying to say that they always acted without mistakes: I mean that they both give priority to state interests, not to personal interests. Brezhnev had a patronage-oriented conception of the state, similar to the relationship in Russia between the landowner and his estate and the peasants living on it. So at least Gorbachev's election is significant in this respect: a leadership guided in its work by state interests.

[Brancoli] What should this involve for the party?

[Medvedev] An appreciable change of cadres at all levels, which the congress enables him to start.

It will be necessary to create a majority within the Central Committee that will support his programs, giving absolute priority to the economy, and in order to carry out a particular program he will have to create the necessary cadres, because it is the cadres who decide everything, and the Soviets, after hearing so many fine words, judge their leaders not on what they say but on what they do.

[Brancoli] It is just 20 years since the Kosygin reform, and the debate is reverberating with many of the themes of that time, because the reform remained largely on paper.

[Medvedev] Perhaps the reform will not be the same; perhaps he will not do exactly what Andropov wanted to do, either. However, he has already begun to create a "brains trust" of economists who can formulate basic reforms. Furthermore, he is himself an economist, and obviously he has his own opinions in this field: Some he has already expressed, and perhaps he will do so more thoroughly in his report to the congress. The need for a reform is felt, and I believe it can be said with virtual certainty that he and his group will carry out an economic reform.

[Brancoli] However, he must find the consensus of the chief groups, and no reform plan, however limited and general, can suit everyone under present conditions.

[Medvedev] Indeed not. I would say therefore that he must find the consensus of the workers and peasants. It is of little importance to them if he is clever and his wife dresses elegantly: The important things are the material results -- whether he improves living standards and supplies of consumer goods.

[Brancoli] But at least a section of the working class will feel threatened by the introduction of new technologies and new working methods.

[Medvedev] Yes, it is inevitable. However, let us bear in mind that in our country there is no specter of unemployment. If the leap forward to boosting the economy is accompanied by a corresponding rise in incomes and living standards, I believe Gorbachev will certainly receive the support of the working class.

[Brancoli] What about the peasants?

[Medvedev] Their support is essential to improve the efficiency of agriculture and, unless Gorbachev succeeds in doing this with the sense of responsibility he has shown and with the competence he has, he will certainly not be spoken of as a man who altered the situation in the country. Agriculture is the weakest link in our economy and, although it is true that one cannot restore full health to the congenitally sick, it is also true that any delay makes recovery more difficult. Now, Gorbachev has the power and the means to enable him to act resolutely.

[Brancoli] Then there are certain sectors that are important because of the role they perform: the "intelligentsia," the leadership cadres that constitute the apparatus.

[Medvedev] It can already be said that Gorbachev enjoys a certain popularity among intellectuals, who recognize shared characteristics in him. This was the case with Andropov, for that matter. It is not the most important sector, but it is the one that molds so-called public opinion to a large extent.

[Brancoli] What about the leadership cadres?

[Medvedev] Here the question becomes more complex. For one thing, it is necessary to draw a distinction between two categories, which we will call bureaucrats and technocrats. It seems to me that Gorbachev can never win the sympathies of the bureaucrats, and one of his tasks is precisely to eliminate them from the apparatus and bring to the forefront competent people who will work in the state's interests. As far as the ideological apparatus is concerned, there will be a less dogmatic staff then there is now. That in itself would be a major step forward. I do not hope that our society can rapidly become a democratic state, but it does seem to me that a capable leader is less afraid of criticism. More scope for freedom of opinion is created, and the foundations are laid for a subsequent stage of extended democratic opportunities.

[Brancoli] I see that you have left the military until last.

[Medvedev] It is a very delicate point because, owing to his political biography, Gorbachev has never had anything to do with the Army. Obviously because of his age he did not serve during the war, and he did not perform military service: He was concerned with agriculture.... At the same time the military hierarchy has become a professional, somewhat closed caste, and the officer corps is composed of people virtually unacquainted with Gorbachev. It will therefore be difficult for him to understand their interests, opinions, and demands and to gain their sympathy.

[Brancoli] Recently the political authorities themselves have condemned as alarming an apparently widespread phenomenon of alienation and unemployment among young people. Are prospects of renewal possible without their involvement?

[Medvedev] No, but I do not know whether Gorbachev will find a way of achieving it. It is a crucial problem because in recent years, for reasons comprehensible to all, the generation gap has widened and this gap has manifested itself mainly in young people's lack of political commitment. When I was 18 my generation, despite Stalin and his terror, counted politics among their principal values. Now young people are not in the least interested in it and nobody is more unpopular among them than the Komsomol leader. Gorbachev must find a new staff capable of winning young people's sympathies, of reviving their interest in politics so that they become a useful reserve. It is an extraordinarily important task, and I really do not know whether Gorbachev will succeed in it. We shall see.

[Brancoli] Gorbachev's first congress will coincide, to within a matter of weeks, with the 30th anniversary of the 20th congress. In recent months we have witnessed a spreading but separate attempt to rehabilitate Stalin at least partly, whereas Khrushchev is still a nonperson. You have written key books on Stalin and Khrushchev, published throughout the world but not in your own country. Do you expect anything from Gorbachev?

[Medvedev] For one thing, that he will certainly not rehabilitate Stalin. I can only make suppositions, because Stalin's supporters are not to be found only among the elderly, but I do not believe that Gorbachev is one of them. There is nothing to connect him with Stalin: He does not owe Stalin his career and he has nothing to hide in his past. When Khrushchev read his "report" Gorbachev was Komsomol secretary in Stavropol, and I remember that at that time it made a great impression on young people. The same happened with Khrushchev's speech to 22d congress. Moreover, Gorbachev's career in Stavropol was given a boost by a close friend of Khrushchev's, Afremov, who was party first secretary, not to mention the fact that a rehabilitation of Stalin would earn Gorbachev the support only of the worst sector of the apparatus. I would like to hope that he is also intelligent enough to gradually change his attitude to Khrushchev and even people's opinion of him, while reinforcing the negative verdict on Stalin and his era.

However, I believe that this issue will be resolved much later. For the time being Gorbachev needs to strengthen his management and to tackle and resolve economic more than historical problems. The problems of history exist, but they are not his priority.

REPUBLIC SUPREME SOVIETS ELECT OFFICIALS

LD261453 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Questions of the socioeconomic development of the republics in the light of the demands of the March 1985 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee were discussed today at sessions of the Supreme Soviets of Azerbaijan SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Kirgiz SSR, and Turkmen SSR.

Organs of state power of the republics were formed.

Comrade Khalilov was elected chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Seidov was appointed chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

Comrade Barkauskas was elected chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Songayla was appointed chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

Comrade Koshoyev was elected chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Duysheyev was appointed chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

Comrade Yazkuliyev was elected chairman of the Turkmen Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Niyazov was appointed chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

SOVIET GRAND MUFTI ON MUSLIMS' RIGHTS

NC270920 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1800 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Our correspondent recently interviewed Pashayev, the grand mufti of the Muslims in the Caucasus, and asked him to discuss the life of Muslims in the Soviet Union.

Grand Mufti Pashayev said: O Iranian Muslims: I speak to you on behalf of all Soviet Muslims in the Caucasus, Tajik SSR, Tatar ASSR, Bashkir ASSR, and in other parts of the Soviet Union; and on behalf of all Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims who live in fraternity, peace, and friendship in our country without any tension. We, the Soviet Muslims, together with all the Soviet people, are working for our homeland's welfare, progress, and development. We enjoy all the rights and freedoms that we were granted after the Great October Revolution, which fulfilled many of the Koran's commandments.

Land has been given to farmers. All people, both men and women, enjoy equal rights. Freedom, friendship, and justice have emerged victorious, and each nation enjoys freedom of religion. Suitable work has been ensured for everyone in factories and plants, in agricultural cooperatives, and in state agricultural units. Extremely favorable conditions have been created for the implementation of the Prophet's teachings that it is the duty of each Muslim man and woman to acquire knowledge, a collective system of free education has been created everywhere. Before the revolution, we did not know the meaning of a retirement pension or free health service.

Now we have all of this. Our children and women have not tasted the bitterness of poverty and deprivation and never will.

The Soviet Muslims are engaged in broad activities to prevent a world nuclear disaster. We have always supported fraternity and understanding with other Muslim nations. Muslim delegations from other countries often visit us and spend time in our country where they become acquainted with the life of Soviet Muslims and of other Soviet people. Both Sunnis and Shi'ites visit our country. We are proud of the fact that our country is the only country in the world where Sunnis and Shi'ites can conduct prayer services in the same mosque at the same time. There is such a mosque in our city, Baku, and all visitors are surprised to see how this mosque functions.

History has witnessed the establishment of close relations between our two nations. However, we want closer and more friendly relations with your country. We want you to visit our country more often. Much can be learned from us and, in my opinion, the great achievements of the Soviet Muslims in the social and cultural domains should be of interest to you.

We pray for friendship and understanding among all nations. We pray that they are not separated by wars. I sincerely hope that friendship and fraternity between our two nations will expand and consolidate. This will benefit both the Soviet Union and Iran.

SOVIET YOUTH PAPER INTRODUCES NEW RUBRIC

PM260959 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 23 March 1985 carries on pages 1 and 2 A 3,400-word article entitled "Leader" by special correspondents A. Afanasyev and N. Yefremenko who write from Nikopol and Moscow. An introduction explains that this is the first article under the new "Man and Competition" rubric. The introduction notes:

"One of the most powerful reserves for increasing labor productivity is to improve socialist competition. By renouncing old-fashioned approaches and methods, let us try to look at competition and its participants in a new light. Who are those participants? Above all they are leaders and pacesetters. They are backed up by those people whose efforts contribute to their success, to the general success, such as engineers, economists, supply workers...

"In today's feature entitled 'Leader' we introduce a new rubric under which we will be publishing reports on competition participants."

The article describes socialist competition initiatives in the city of Nikopol.

MARSHAL KOLDUNOV ON ROLE OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE

PM270931 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 85 Second Edition p 2

[Article by Chief Marshal of Aviation A. Koldunov, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces and USSR deputy defense minister: "Guarding the Air Frontiers"]

[Excerpt] The salvos of the Great Patriotic War died away and the Soviet people returned to their peaceful creative labor. However, the ruling circles of a number of imperialist states, headed by the United States, launched the arms race and openly threatened the Soviet Union with a new war. At the same time they channeled vast efforts into improving their air attack systems. In these conditions the Communist Party and the Soviet Government took every measure to ensure the motherland's reliable defense. Great attention was paid to developing and improving the country's air defense. The Air Defense Forces were equipped with new technical facilities and large-scale organizational measures were carried out. Our servicemen mastered the new weaponry with persistence.

Overseas, lovers of military adventures and impudent acts of provocation have seen for themselves the reliability of our weapons and the skill of Soviet servicemen more than once. That is what happened on 1 May 1960 when servicemen of the division commanded by Major M. Voronov showed high political vigilance and combat readiness on duty in shooting down with their first missile the U.S. U-2 aircraft flown by the spy pilot Powers. That is what happened that said summer when Flight Commander Captain A. Polyakov destroyed a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft that had penetrated Soviet territory. That is what happens whenever provocateurs attempt to test the reliability of the protection of our air frontiers. The servicemen of the Air Defense Forces have always fittingly repulsed them.

Air defense has now acquired great strategic significance. The fulfillment of the tasks involved in protecting the Soviet Union's air borders is made complex by the fact that the U.S. militarist circles and their allies assign a special place in their aggressive plans to airborne attack systems. The siting of U.S. cruise missiles in a number of NATO states and the appearance in the Pentagon's arsenal of the very latest nuclear weapon carriers, improved bombers, fighters, and assault planes, and other strategic and operational-tactical armaments have considerably increased the threat of aggression to the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries.

However, Soviet people have not forgotten the Great Patriotic War's lessons and are vigilantly monitoring the aggressive circles' intrigue. In his speech at the party Central Committee March (1985) Plenum Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasized clearly and definitely that an encroachment on the security of the Soviet land and its allies or on the peaceful life of Soviet people will be met by crushing retaliation.

While showing constant concern to strengthen the motherland's defense capability, the Communist Party and the Soviet people, true to Lenin's tenets on the socialist fatherland's defense, are doing their utmost to ensure that the Air Defense Forces fully measure up to the increased demands involved in defending the motherland against aggressors' encroachments. Thanks to the efforts of our scientists and engineers and the selfless labor of workers the subunits and units of the Air Defense Forces now have the weaponry capable of destroying any aerial target.

The fire potential of the antiaircraft missile forces is now great: They are equipped with complex weapons of various types with a high level of resistance to jamming.

They are capable of hitting all modern air attack systems at great distances, high or low altitude, and supersonic speed. The Air Defense Air Force now has supersonic, missile-carrying fighters equipped with powerful missiles and first-rate interception complexes. They are capable of destroying cruise missiles and missile-carrying aircraft over a wide range of altitudes and speeds and under any weather conditions.

The radar forces are successfully carrying out the tasks of early detection and warning. The improved radar systems with which they are equipped enable them to detect airborne attack systems at considerable range and despite the most complex jamming, to recognize those systems and determine their coordinates with great accuracy, thereby providing reliable backup for the operations of missilemen and airmen.

The servicemen of the eighties, worthy heirs to the military valor of their fathers and grandfathers, are mastering this awesome weaponry with great determination and zeal. The vast combat experience of the Great Patriotic War finds extensive creative application during intensive combat training. Personnel of the Air Defense Forces demonstrate their readiness to vigilantly and reliably protect the Soviet fatherland's air frontiers by highly patriotic deeds. It is very symbolic that the children of war heroes should themselves be heroes of the present day. Colonel I. Zhukov, son of a frontliner, is one such hero. While piloting a supersonic fighter on a training flight he displayed the highest courage and ability just like wartime aces. His feat was rewarded with the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union.

While comprehensively resolving the tasks of further improving combat training nowadays the air defense personnel are also struggling persistently to meet their pledges in the competition under the slogan "Let us devote our selfless military labor to the 40th anniversary of the great victory and the 27th CPSU Congress!" As they complete the winter training period, servicemen are filled with the firm determination to raise the combat readiness and combat capability of units and subunits to a new level and to do their combat duty even more vigilantly.

However, we also have tasks that require further persistent work. Those tasks include the improvement of the control system and questions of cooperation among all elements of the complex organism of air defense. We are looking at ways to resolve them and are working to find reserves to increase the forces' combat readiness.

The successful fulfillment of the tasks facing the Air Defense Forces is promoted by party political work, filled with great content. The main content of that work consists in uniting the personnel around the CPSU, molding Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, strengthening friendship and soldierly comradeliness, providing training based on the revolutionary and combat traditions of the party, the people, and the Armed Forces, and being ready to defend the socialist fatherland and our great socialist community.

The Air Defense Forces personnel, like all Soviet Armed Forces servicemen, are drawing practical conclusions from the CPSU Central Committee March Plenum's propositions and instructions on the need to maintain our motherland's defense capability at a high level and are protecting the fatherland's sacred borders with ever increasing vigilance.

Servicemen are filled with a lofty patriotic desire to greet the 40th anniversary of the great victory and the 27th CPSU Congress with new and improved indicators in training. Servicemen are proving by concrete deeds that they are always alert and always ready to defend the Soviet motherland's inviolable borders.